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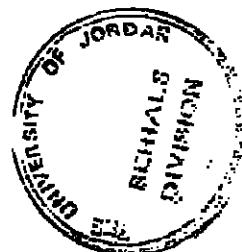
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# THE TIMES



No. 65,190

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14 1995

Scrapping of border controls urged

## Britain faces challenge from Santer

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS, PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE European Commission will announce tomorrow a fresh attempt to force Britain to abandon passport controls on EU travellers.

Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, will tell the European Parliament that he is planning a directive intended to end Britain's right to keep checks at ports and airports to monitor the movements of non-EU citizens who wish to enter Britain. Any such directive would have to be approved by all 15 member states.

Downing Street made clear yesterday, however, that it would veto any attempt to weaken its immigration controls. The Government could also take the Commission to the European Court of Justice, claiming that it is ignoring a declaration attached to the Maastricht treaty which appears to let governments within the European Union control the movements of non-EU travellers.

All the member states have agreed to let EU citizens travel freely across the Union, and next month seven countries will abolish all frontier posts and controls between them.

In London, the Conservative and Labour leaderships walked away from a Commons vote on Europe last night as Tory Euro-sceptics took up the warning delivered by Charles Wardle, the industry minister who resigned at the weekend, that the present safeguards were under threat. His claim was supported by experts and constitutional

Leading Euro-sceptics re-



Santer: border directive likely to be vetoed

leased a copy of a Commission work programme which, they said, vindicated Mr Wardle's judgment that Britain would be defenceless in the European Court of Justice if its passport controls were challenged.

The fresh alarm over Europe coincided with a call by the Liberal Democrats for a referendum on future constitutional changes in the Union. The Commons vote, staged to exploit Tory divisions, became meaningless, however, as the two main parties advised their MPs to stay away and exposed tensions between Paddy Ashdown and some of his senior Liberal Democrat colleagues.

It emerged that the party's efforts to attract Labour support for the referendum motion collapsed when it became clear that Tony Blair's front-bench team had not been given any details of the plan.

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, complained

testily to Mr Ashdown in a leaked memorandum that he had been wrongly blamed for the failure to tell Robin Cook, his Labour counterpart, of the plans to force the referendum vote. Mr Ashdown had been keen to ensure that Labour were fully aware of the plan before the Commons debate was made public last week.

Ministers insisted yesterday that Britain's position on immigration controls is protected by a general declaration signed by the 12 leaders of the Union - at the instigation of Margaret Thatcher - at the time of the Single European Act in 1985. Although the Act provided for the free movement of people within the EU, the declaration allows member states to take measures to control immigration from third countries or to fight terrorism, crime, and drug trafficking.

Since seven states have already agreed to abolish their border controls from next month, pressure will be increased on the remaining members, including Britain, to follow suit. Italy and Greece are expected to drop their controls before the end of the year.

Mr Wardle, who claimed in his resignation statement that the declaration was "not worth the paper it is written on", said that Britain's position was increasingly untenable. "While that case runs, the

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Warburg managers discuss the latest crisis beside a sculpture entitled *Rush Hour* in front of their office at Broadgate in the City yesterday

## Warburgs stunned as chief resigns

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE City's leading independent merchant bank, SG Warburg, was plunged into confusion yesterday after the sudden resignation of Lord Cairns, its chief executive, and the issuing of a profits warning.

Lord Cairns, a friend of the Prince of Wales, had worked for Warburg for 16 years, and has been chief executive since 1991. The board accepted his resignation on Sunday at an emergency meeting in London. By resigning, he is shouldering blame for the failure of merger talks in December with Morgan Stanley, the US-based global investment banking group, and for the departure last week of some key Warburg employees.

Staff have been unsettled since the collapse of merger talks forced the bank to review its loss-making

businesses. It pulled out of Eurobonds last month with the loss of 180 jobs. Last week it lost the heart of its equities operation when Maurice Thompson and Michael Cohrs led a third of its equity capital markets team to rival Morgan Grenfell.

Deutsche Bank, parent of Morgan Grenfell, is creating a new investment banking business in London and is enticing some of the City's best corporate financiers with fat pay cheques and bonuses. Other Warburg staff are said to be seeking new positions, feeling little job certainty where they are.

Sir David Scholey, chairman, who had planned to retire in June when he will be 60, is to combine the roles of chairman and chief executive. Warburg said he would remain "to put the

bank back on track". Brandon Gough, a non-executive director, has become deputy chairman.

Sir David told staff yesterday: "Our first task and highest priority is to revitalise investment bank profitability, taking decisive and substantial action to increase our revenues and reduce our cost base." This was interpreted by staff as a plan to cut further jobs. They fear that as many as 1,000 could go out of 4,472.

Five months ago, such events would have been considered impossible at Warburg, the City's most blue-blooded investment bank. But a hint of problems came in October, when shareholders were warned that its half-year profits would not meet analysts' expectations after a poor six months for equity and bond markets.

In November it confirmed the worst when profits crashed from £148.8 million to £62.5 million.

After yesterday's profits warning, City analysts downgraded forecasts from £160 million for the year to March 31 to £135 million. The shares fell 20p to close at 706p.

Sir David, regarded as an "adopted son" by the late Sir Stigum Warburg, who founded the firm after the Second World War, was due to hand over as chairman to Lord Cairns in June. He now faces the task of grooming a new chairman, possibly Mr Gough, and finding a new chief executive.

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### 'Times' sales rise again

Sales of *The Times* hit a new monthly record of 631,449 in January, a year-on-year increase of 175,821, and at 38.5 per cent the highest recorded by any daily or Sunday national newspaper. According to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, *The Times* now has 23.5 per cent of the quality daily market, five percentage points higher than a year ago.

### Storms of passion on granite isle

Appointment of a new barmaid to Lundy Island, off the Devon coast, appears to have unleashed a torrent of emotions in islanders' lives. Seven have left, a marriage has ended and the barmaid has been flown to hospital after an apparent overdose. Page 3

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## Duke of Kent expresses Britain's regret for suffering of Dresden

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN DRESDEN

THE Duke of Kent yesterday broke new ground in Anglo-German relations when he came close to apologising for the British role in bombing Dresden 50 years ago. Marking the anniversary of the raids, the Duke, representing the Queen, said in German: "We deeply regret the suffering on all sides in the war. Today we remember especially that of the people of Dresden."

The short speech was a climax to a day of remembrance in which both British and German speakers acknowledged the horror of the raids and committed themselves to healing the wounds.

President Herzog defended Germany against criticism that it was trying to equate the Dresden bombing with German war crimes. "If you want peace, friendship and reconciliation, you cannot simply keep a bookkeeper's account of the dead, the wounded and the unfortunate victims from different nations. Life cannot be

balanced against life, pain against pain."

The British were nervous about the anniversary, remembering the unfriendly reception accorded the Queen in October 1992. Yesterday there seemed to be a recognition by speakers and listening Dresdeners that the time had passed for raw anger. As tens of thousands followed the delegations from the Church of the Holy Cross (Kreuzkirche) to the ruins of the Church of Our Lady

(Frauenkirche), it became plain that this would be one of the few war anniversaries to pass without serious dispute.

Both the D-Day anniversary last year and the Auschwitz commemorations last month were dogged by rows over the right to mourn and the right to celebrate. The tension was eased to a large degree by the British-based Dresden Trust charity's plan to build a golden cross and orb on the Frauenkirche when it is rebuilt in about ten years. "We

want this cross to be a symbol of the reconciliation between Britain and Germany," the Duke said. "We give it in remembrance of those who died in Dresden and in the conviction that there will for ever be peace between our two peoples."

His statement appears to have satisfied most Germans. President Herzog also used the cross as the symbol of a recast relationship. "This cross, which will stand so high above the city, will remind us always that we have come together again."

Although both the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Nick Nolan, and his Dresden counterpart, Herbert Wagner, made similar conciliatory comments, President Herzog's speech drew most attention. He said that Dresden should no longer be used as part of an unstated prosecution case against the British or the Americans but rather treated as an occasion for mourning and remembrance.

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Bishop of Coventry, page 16



The Duke of Kent laying a wreath yesterday in Dresden in memory of victims of the bombing

## Archbishop calls on taxman to boost marriage

By RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE taxman could boost the fading appeal of marriage, according to the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, in a St Valentine's Day broadcast tonight.

In an appeal on BBC Wales, he will urge the Government to provide couples with tax incentives to make marriage more financially attractive.

"One encouragement of marriage at government level might be to make it

fiscally more attractive," he says. "There has been such emphasis in legislation in recent years on the equality of partners and not disadvantaging the illegitimate, and on the whole treating cohabiting couples as if they were married. Those who are looking at the possibilities of different lifestyles see no particular advantage for themselves in actually getting married and society seems to be saying through the tax system that it doesn't matter."

He denies that his idea would drive

marriage away from the idea of a selfless commitment. "Selfless commitments need a bit of social support," he says.

The Treasury conceded last night that, apart from the £344 married couple's allowance, which is due to be reduced in April and in practice almost always goes to the man, there are no tax advantages in getting married. It said: "We have to have a fair tax system, and that was widely recognised in the reforms of 1990."

Denise Knowles, of Relate, the

former Marriage Guidance Council, said: "This pulls the rug from under the feet of love. The responsibility for making a relationship last lies with the couple, not with the Government. Marrying for tax incentives would be like marrying for money."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, during his Indian visit, denied criticism that the moral authority of the Church of England had been eroded and said yesterday that he stood firmly behind the Prince of Wales and his estranged wife.

## Insure for legal fees, Aitken urges

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE public should take out insurance to cover the costs of lawyers' fees, Jonathan Aitken, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said last night in the latest government drive to curb legal aid costs.

Mr Aitken said that Britain needed to follow other European countries and the United States in making more use of insurance to provide for legal action. He said that the amount spent on insurance in Britain was only £70 million, compared with £1.25 billion in Germany.

"These figures suggest that legal insurance is a neglected area in this country and I would welcome the extension of existing private schemes," Mr Aitken said. He added that it was up to the insurance industry to use its commercial judgment.

Ministers are anxious to peg back the spiralling costs of legal aid, which have risen from £363 million in 1986-87 to more than £1.4 billion this year.

## Raised in the Highlands



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# Audio-visual limpet makes a monkey out of the organ grinder

"UN HOMME avec Dieu est toujours dans la majorité." Numbers don't count as long as God's on your side, said John Knox — but why in French? For Paddy Ashdown any language would have served yesterday. There must be Mondays when the loneliness of the long-distance Liberal Democrat gnaws at the stoutest heart, but Mr Ashdown always manages to convey the impression that God is a Liberal Democrat too.

There he stood, backed by a little cheering clique of fellow

Liberals, itself backed by a big green leather sea of empty Opposition benches, making a brave speech about our common European destiny, while Tories giggled, a couple of Labour backbenchers chatted among themselves, and Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolton) kept up a machine-gun stunner of toxic expletives.

Poor Mr Ashdown: it was actually quite a good speech. Each Liberal Democrat leader fancied himself on guard duty over the Liberal conscience during the long

watch of the night. He keeps his hopes alive by whistling in the dark and scanning the horizon for the glimmer of an approaching dawn. Will it be he who leads his troops into the sunrise of a Liberal revival? The dawn never comes. Whistle on.

Ashdown was whistling bravely. He has the advantage of believing what he says about Europe. He has the disadvantage of being the chap Dennis Skinner has devoted the second half of his life to tormenting. Skinner



MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

has positioned himself permanently right in front of Ashdown and sits directly beneath the same microphone. It is almost impossible to get a TV shot of Ashdown without the leering image of Skinner directly in front. It is totally impossible to hear an Ashdown speech unpeppered with audible ridicule. Skinner

has thus turned himself into an audio-visual limpet. Like one of those creepy late-night films in which the toys come alive and an innocent nursery tale flips into a gothic horror-movie, this is the story of a Liberal organ grinder dogged by a loony-Left monkey gone feral, refusing to depart, clawing his

shoulder, shrieking and spitting, and spoiling his music with demon cackles and a lunatic grin.

When Ashdown finally passes on to the great Liberal Democrat pasture in the sky and they place a modest headstone, eulogising his virtue, by his grave, Dennis Skinner's smaller memorial will be found just in front, blocking it and poisoning the flowers. It will be inscribed with lapidary graffiti: a spoilsport footnote to a Liberal life.

After Ashdown, a minister,

David Davis, replied for the Government. Smart people like to mutter that the capable Mr Davis is the next prime minister but two. Smart people cannot have watched him on his feet. He reminded me yesterday of John Davies, imported into the Commons from a successful business career by Ted Heath, to inject some managerial common-sense into the politics of UK limited. John Davies dove-bombed.

The trouble with these two men is that they carry with

them the stifling aura of a video-assisted presentation to a group of sales reps in the conference room of a Trusthouse Forte motel by a motorway just outside Birmingham on a hot July afternoon. Heckled, they crumple.

They cannot spar, they cannot juggle, they cannot dance. They do not stand on their heads. They can't do funny voices. They may be wise counsel and wonderful managers but in the Commons Chamber they bomb. Mr Davis bombed.

SIMON WALKER

## Law experts back Wardle claim over EU borders

By MICHAEL DYNES

LAWYERS and constitutional experts yesterday endorsed Charles Wardle's claim that Britain's internal frontier controls were in danger of being declared illegal by the European Court of Justice.

A decision could be made by the end of the year, after the European Parliament lodged a complaint with the court over the failure of Britain and Ireland to abolish all internal border controls.

The impending showdown with the court will add urgency to the debate about the erosion of Britain's immigration controls, sparked by Charles Wardle's decision to resign as junior trade and industry minister over Europe's "open door" policy.

Downing Street insisted yesterday that a declaration appended to the Act enshrined the right of each member state to maintain border controls. But Mr Wardle is adamant that it is "not worth the paper it was written on", and lawyers appear to agree with him.

Mr Wardle has made clear his determination to make sure that the frontier control issue would be high on the agenda of the inter-governmental conference (IGC) next year. Under Article 7a of the Act, each member state is required by law to eliminate all obstacles to the free movement of capital, goods, services and people, as part of the European Union's drive to create the single market.

After pressure from Baroness Thatcher, a declaration was added to the Act, stating that: "Nothing in these provisions shall affect the right of member states to take such measures as they consider necessary for the purposes of controlling immigration." Britain and Ireland have been

convinced that the declaration preserved their right to carry out border checks for illegal immigrants, drug traffickers and terrorists. But the European Commission has made no secret of its view that Britain's interpretation of the declaration is flawed.

Commission officials insist that the attempt to retain internal frontier controls contradicts the provisions of the Act, which defines the single market as an "area without internal frontiers". Moreover, one leading QC who advised the Government on the legal status of the commitments entered into in 1985 bluntly told ministers that they were skating on thin ice as the declaration was subordinate to the Act.

"It will be pleaded that the declaration must be taken into account when interpreting the Act," he said. "But the weight of legal authority is against interpreting the Act by reference to declarations. In addition, the declaration does not state unambiguously that member states can maintain frontier controls on people coming from other member states. Relying on the declaration is no guarantee of success," he said.

A confidential report written for John Major some 18 months ago by Geoffrey Fitchew, the former head of the Cabinet Office's European Secretariat, confirmed suspicions that the declaration was effectively worthless.

Frank Vibert, director of the European Policy Forum, a think-tank specialising in European constitutional issues, said: "Declarations do not have the same legal standing as provisions in a treaty and are vulnerable to encroachments by the court."



Charles Wardle after his resignation. He made little secret of his feelings for civil servants, accusing the Home Office of poor management

## Officials knew when they'd been Wardled

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES WARDLE, the government minister who resigned at the weekend, complained directly to the Prime Minister on at least two occasions that senior civil servants at the Home Office were not up to the job.

Observers said that Mr Wardle's relations with his senior civil servants, who have described his attitude as overbearing, were among the worst seen in Whitehall between a minister and his private office. The problem grew so serious that last year it was informally brought to the attention of Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet secretary and head of the Civil Service.

According to one source, officials in Mr Wardle's office on one occasion discussed walking out in protest at his sharp tongue. They did

not do so because they feared that their careers would be affected.

Mr Wardle has made little attempt to conceal his contempt for civil servants. He wrote to Mr Major last



Sir Robin Butler: informal approach

month, some time after he had been moved to the Department of Trade and Industry, complaining that the Home Office, where he was responsible for immigration affairs, was characterised by poor management. He said that basic managerial skills were absent, that officials lacked qualification for the job and compared badly with the private sector. The letter also makes clear that it was not the first time Mr Wardle had taken the matter up with the Prime Minister.

There are no official guidelines covering relations between ministers and civil servants. The only comment a government spokesman was offering yesterday was that civil servants, like anyone else, "expect to be treated civilly". Nor do any formal

procedures exist for senior officials to make a complaint about a minister. It is up to the aggrieved official to decide whether to discuss the matter with the departmental permanent secretary, write to Sir Robin or seek the assistance of the First Division Association, the trade union for senior civil servants.

Last year Liz Symons, the general secretary of the association, told the Commons Civil Service Select Committee that her association had had complaints about at least two ministers who bullied and verbally abused civil servants. She declined to name the ministers in question, claiming that her members feared victimisation.

A flashpoint between Mr Wardle and civil servants occurred last year when he

declined to publish a report on refugees in Britain, produced by the Home Office research unit. Mr Wardle questioned the integrity of the civil servants who had produced the report and demanded to see the transcripts of the interviews on which it was based.

One person who worked closely with him said yesterday: "In meetings with Charles Wardle there was always more than a normal amount of listening, far more than you expect with other ministers."

Civil servants at the Home Office even coined a word for being bawled out by the former immigration minister. After a dressing down officials would ruefully tell colleagues they had been "Wardled".

## Britain faces new challenge by Santer

Continued from page 1  
other countries in Europe have begun to dismantle their frontiers. So before long we will be well and truly isolated," he said on BBC Radio 2 yesterday.

Downing Street insisted that whatever the Commission said, declarations signed by heads of government carried "great weight". The assurance failed to convince Tory Eurosceptics, however. They pointed to the Commission's legal interpretation of article 7a of the Treaty of Rome as amended by the Single European Act of 1985.


The interpretation states: "The Community internal market must operate under the same conditions as a national market: just as there are no border controls between regions in a single member state, goods, services, capital and individuals must therefore be free to move, unimpeded by any border controls, between member states."

"Article 7a therefore establishes a clear and simple objective that allows no margin of discretion... Power to impose controls or penalties which were exercised only on the occasion of, or in connection with, the crossing of an internal frontier would, therefore, be contrary to Article 7a," said Duncan-Smith, Tory MP for Chingford, said that the declaration obtained by Mrs Thatcher in 1985 had no force in law and would be disregarded by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

"Declarations are not part of treaty obligations. They are inter-governmental and the European Court does not rule on inter-governmental issues. It rules solely on what is in the body of the treaties. This paper confirms all the warnings Charles Wardle has given."

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## Woman in court over abduction

A mother of three appeared before magistrates yesterday charged with abducting the baby Lydia Owens from a hospital in north Wales and was remanded to a psychiatric unit. Susan Brooke, 39, of Rhyl, Clwyd, was accused at Prestatyn Magistrates' Court of the abduction of Lydia from Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan, last Friday. The baby, born last Tuesday, was discovered by police on Saturday two hours after Mrs Owens made a broadcast plea for her return. Lydia was returned to her parents safe and well.

At the 70-minute hearing, during which reporting restrictions were not lifted, Mrs Brooke, who was arrested by North Wales police on Saturday afternoon, spoke only to confirm her name, age and address.

## Glencoe search fails

Rescuers in Glencoe failed to find any trace of the missing climber Allan Sands yesterday but another man was found on Ben Nevis, suffering from severe hypothermia. Sacha Backus had fallen while climbing with a companion, who is still missing. The search for him and for Mr Sands, who has been missing since Friday, will resume this morning.

## Saatchi rivals in court

The first round in the High Court clash between Saatchi & Saatchi and its founder, Maurice Saatchi, has ended with both sides claiming victory. The agency failed in a preliminary attempt to prevent Mr Saatchi from setting up a rival business, but effectively won a temporary block against three senior defectors.

## Magistrates spared

The Lord Chancellor is expected to grant magistrates an undertaking that they will not have to meet the legal costs of poll tax defaulters they unlawfully jailed. A judge recently ordered magistrates at Middleton, Greater Manchester, to pay the costs of High Court proceedings. Magistrates do not have the legal immunity of full-time judges.

## Cantona may sue ITN

Eric Cantona may sue ITN for libel and invasion of privacy after his fracas with a film crew while on holiday in Guadeloupe, his lawyer said in Paris yesterday. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, has backed Cantona, saying: "To film without permission a man's six-month pregnant wife in her swimsuit is deplorable."

## Dublin steps up peace pressure

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish Government will step up pressure on Britain today to release IRA prisoners and to open full-scale ministerial talks with Sinn Féin. Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, is expected to underline Dublin's concern that Britain is moving too slowly in the peace process when he meets Sir Patrick Mayhew at Stormont Castle.

Mr Spring will tell the Northern Ireland Secretary that Dublin has granted important concessions to Sinn Féin by freeing IRA prisoners in the Republic and by holding ministerial talks with the party. He will echo Sinn Féin's demands for Britain's exploratory talks with Sinn Féin to move to a ministerial level.

The two ministers will also hold talks on the forthcoming Anglo-Irish framework document. Both sides are keen to publish the document soon to allay Unionist fears that it will give Dublin an unprecedented role in the affairs of Northern Ireland after The Times disclosed details from the document. Dublin also wants to publish the document before Sinn Féin's annual conference, to be held in Dublin later this month, when the party will give its most detailed response to the peace process.

Negotiations on the framework document have been held up over changes to the Irish constitution, and the extent of the powers of cross-border bodies which will be proposed in the document. The discussions in Belfast will follow a meeting in Downing Street this morning between John Major and senior members of the Ulster Unionist Party. It is under-

stood that the Prime Minister will hold talks on the framework document with David Trimble, the MP for Upper Bann, Willie Ross, the MP for Londonderry East, and the Rev Martin Smyth, the MP for South Belfast.

Yesterday Sir Patrick condemned as "barbaric and repulsive" a series of punishment beatings that left nine people in hospital over the weekend. The Northern Ireland Secretary said that the beatings by suspected loyalist and republican paramilitaries must end, and he described the attacks as a "flagrant violation of the rights to live free from fear of violence."

His comments followed three separate attacks in Belfast and Londonderry. In the most serious, in West Belfast, seven suspected republican paramilitaries beat a 19-year-old boy around the legs with a baseball bat spiked with nails.

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# Storms of passion sweep granite island

'She was a skivvy and now she's queen of Lundy'

By Dominic Kennedy

SCANDAL has divided Lundy Island (population 11). Since the arrival of a new barmaid last spring, seven islanders have left, a marriage has ended and the femme fatale has been flown to hospital after an apparent overdose.

Lundy, a windswept hunk of granite 11 miles off the north Devon coast, usually serves as a holiday haven for bird-watchers or romantics eager to escape the bustle of life on the mainland. One of the rules of the island is that lights must go out at midnight when the windmill-generated electricity supply is turned off.

The appointment of Cait Scanlon, 26, as a temporary barmaid at the island's only pub, the Marisco Tavern, appears to have unleashed a torrent of emotions in the pastoral lives of the islanders.

Ms Scanlon, an amateur astrologer, is said to have declared there were too many Taurans and Cancerians on the island. Within months, two couples born under those star signs had left.

Another who has gone is Wendy Puddy, who took her two children after splitting up from her husband John, 45, the island's agent for the last 14 years. Earlier the Landmark Trust, which manages Lundy, had asked Ms Scanlon

to return to the mainland. Robin Evans, the director, said: "Wendy and John's marriage was splitting up. I just felt it was a calming influence if Cait left the island for a while, while John sorted his marriage out one way or another."

Ms Scanlon was allowed to return to Lundy when Mr Puddy confirmed he was separating from his wife. Ms Scanlon has moved into the Puddys' three-bedroom, timber-framed home.

Mr Puddy has been on the mainland for the past week, working at his office in Bideford and overseeing work on the MS Oldenburg, the island's boat, which is in dry dock for annual checks.

He was signed off work for a fortnight by his doctor last Friday. The same evening, Ms Scanlon was flown by helicopter to North Devon District Hospital after apparently taking paracetamol and alcohol.

Deborah Congdon, whose husband used to be Lundy's engineer, said: "I think [Mr Puddy] was totally dazzled by a very bright, energetic and attractive young woman. She's very eye-catching. She's got long, bright-red hair, blue eyes, a nice face, slim and very bright and bubbly," Philip



John Puddy on Lundy: since his wife Wendy, top, has left the island with their two children, Cait Scanlon, above, has moved into the couple's home

Congdon was dismissed by the trust in December for "moodiness". Andrew Gibson, wildlife warden for six years, left in the autumn with his wife Lorna for a job on the Isles of Scilly.

Mrs Congdon, who worked in the tavern and cleaned cottages, said: "Cait was a very vivacious and friendly girl

who had a tremendous interest in astrology. She always said there were too many Taurans and Cancerians on the island. Phil and Andrew are both Taurans and Laura and I are both Cancerians, and now we've all gone."

Mr Gibson said: "Even if I hadn't got another job, we would still have gone. The

atmosphere was terrible." Ms Scanlon, he said, "came to the island to work in the tavern and do general skivvy and now she's the queen of Lundy". The first islander to succumb to her charms was Les Pitcher, an unmarried farmhand.

"We were an item for a while," he said yesterday. "She

was a bit odd. She would just wear black and green and she was into all that spiritual stuff."

"You must remember I was working for five months among 600 sheep, so she was a vision of loveliness to me. To start with she was OK, but she was the sort of girl you would sit down with, and within an hour she would be talking to

someone else. I never relied on her for anything. If you arranged to meet her at a certain time, she would meet someone in the street and go off for a drink at their house."

"She could drink with the best of them. She loved champagne. She would come into the pub and order bottles of champagne."

## Oyston friend gets bail on sex charges

By A Staff Reporter

A FRIEND of the millionaire Owen Oyston was given bail last night after being accused of 19 rapes and 40 other sex offences.

Peter Martin, 55, a former policeman, was kept in custody for up to 48 hours pending an appeal by the prosecution against the magistrates' decision. He was charged after Mr Oyston was bailed on multiple rape charges last week.

Their separate court appearances follow a five-month inquiry into a model agency that Mr Martin helped to run in Manchester. Yesterday it took the clerk at Trafford Magistrates Court in Sale almost 15 minutes to read out the 59 charges against Mr Martin.

Apart from the 19 rape charges, he is accused of 31 indecent assaults on women and young girls and of helping to run an international sex ring with his former girlfriend and Mr Oyston. He is also charged with five offences of taking indecent photographs of girls under 16 at Central Models agency. A further two allegations are that he kept a disorderly house at the agency and at his home.

Tracy Marie Grainey, 28, his former girlfriend who helped to run Central Models, is charged with keeping a disorderly house, indecent assault and procuring girls. They were both given bail until March 27.

## Tories' big benefactor shunned mod cons

By Emma Wilkins

A RETIRED construction company owner who left more than £1 million to the Conservative Party in his will lived frugally and shunned the trappings of modern life.

John Jackson, who died last year aged 79, owned neither a television nor a car and ventured out of his Bournemouth home to the shops only occasionally on his bicycle. "There was no outward sign that he was a wealthy man," Sheila Skellon, a family friend who was granted probate on Mr Jackson's will, said. "He never took a holiday and didn't socialise — but then he had no interest in material things. He was a very private man whose great love was his garden."

Mrs Skellon said that Mr Jackson had confided his intention to make the bequest — the largest single legacy ever received by Central Office — two years ago. "He saw the legacy as a way of giving back the money to the people who helped him make it in the first place."

The family construction firm, Jackson's Builders, was founded by his father Arthur in the 1900s. Mr Jackson's family pre-deceased him and he never married.

The Tory party, which has an overdraft of £16 million, will spend the bequest on its general election campaign.

An architect has left up to £2 million to St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Stephen Dykes Bower, a specialist in Gothic architecture, spent much of his life drawing up improvements for the former parish church, built in the 14th century as a pilgrim's chapel. He never married and died last November, aged 91.

The Provost, the Very Rev James Atwell, said it would be premature to make assumptions about the will until he had met the trustees today.

## Troops join hunt for boy's killer after new attack

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

TROOPS in the Irish Republic joined the hunt for the killer of a five-year-old boy yesterday after an elderly woman was attacked in her home near the scene of the murder.

More than 100 police and troops with tracker dogs searched the countryside around Carragh, Co Kildare, after Ciaran Malone was stabbed to death in his bedroom on Saturday night. A second search centred on the town of Newbridge, five miles away, after a pensioner suffered severe head injuries in an attack on Sunday night.

Police, who said they feared the two assaults were linked, set up roving checkpoints in the area, which is close to the main Dublin to Cork road. A



helicopter joined the search and diving teams searched the River Liffey near Carragh.

Police found two holdalls containing clothing, cash and a knife at the rear of Ciaran's house and by the river. Detectives suspect that the killer may have stored the gear, but was forced to change plans after he was challenged by the boy's father.

Detectives took the unusual step of publishing the name and photograph of a man wanted for questioning in connection with the stabbing of Ciaran. Jerome Kavanagh, 21, a neighbour and apprentice printer, has been missing since Saturday night.

Chief Superintendent Tony Mulligan, who is leading the

hunt, said: "I would appeal to people to search their sheds and barns. I doubt he is being given shelter by anyone."

Locals described Mr Kavanagh as a loner who had few friends and spent most of his time at home with his parents. The Kavanaghs frequently looked after Ciaran, and the youngster spent two weeks at their house last month when his parents went on holiday to Spain. The two families visited each other yesterday.

Ciaran was stabbed to death in an apparently motiveless attack by a man wearing a balaclava on Saturday night. Ciaran and his two younger brothers were being looked after by their mother Mary and their aunt, Patricia Brereton, when the attacker entered the family home at 8.40pm on Saturday.

Mrs Malone answered the door to the assailant who tied up the two women, forced them upstairs and pushed Ciaran and his aunt into the same room. The attacker then stabbed Mrs Brereton before cutting Ciaran's throat in front of his three-year-old brother. Mrs Brereton was stable in hospital yesterday.

Soon after the stabbing, David Malone, the victim's father, returned home and pinned the attacker to the ground. His balaclava fell off and Mr Malone recognised the intruder but he managed to escape through a window.

Within 24 hours of the stabbings Ann Curran, 72, was found with severe head injuries at her home in Newbridge.

Mrs Curran, who was seriously ill in hospital in Dublin yesterday, was found at the back of her bungalow after neighbours heard her screaming. She had been assaulted after returning from evening prayers. The blows fractured her skull.

## Valentines pay price of love

By Marianne Curphey

A RECORD number of hopeful lovers will spend £45 million on cards and flowers to mark Valentine's Day today. The typical lovestruck Briton spends £1 on a Valentine's card and £2 on a single red rose.

More than 20 million cards, most featuring risqué messages or fluffy animals, and seven million roses will be exchanged. Harrods is selling roses for £6 a stem, beluga caviar for £68 for 50g and oysters at £1 each. There is still time to buy a £7,600 8ft oval bed, or a pair of lovebirds for £160.

British Airways says 50 men intend to propose in the clouds during a £1,000 Concorde flight over the Bay of

Biscay. Many restaurants are fully booked, and thousands of couples will head off on romantic breaks to Paris and Rome this weekend.

The demand for roses is such that millions have been rushed in from Israel, The Netherlands, Colombia, Venezuela, Kenya, the Channel Islands, the Canary Islands and South Africa. British Airways World Cargo has also flown in 3.5 million carnations. Most are bought by last-minute romantics.

The number of Valentines winging their way by first-class post has reached 10 million this year, up one million on 1994, according to the Royal Mail. Lover post office, near Salisbury, Wilt-

shire, has seen a 50 per cent increase in the number of Valentine's cards posted.

According to a MORI poll, however, most couples will spend Valentine's night watching television, going to the pub, dancing or arranging a meal at home, rather than going out for a meal. An unromantic 1 per cent will go to a football match.

Talk Radio, launched this morning on 1053 and 1089kHz medium wave, has banned talk of love on Valentine's Day. Hosts of phone-in shows have been told to pull the plug on any callers who become sentimental.

Nigella Lawson, page 15  
Messages, pages 20, 21

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Trust blames Charters-Ancaster merger on falling demand for single-sex education

# Fighting fund launched to block school merger

BY LIN JENKINS

PARENTS have launched a fighting fund to reverse the decision of an independent schools trust to close a leading girls' public school.

Campaigners are to mount a legal challenge to save Charters-Ancaster School in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, after the Girls' Public Day School Trust announced on Saturday that it would merge the school with Battle Abbey School, a co-ed 5 miles away, because of a lack of local demand for single-sex education.

Parents believe the trust may have been motivated by the prospect of selling the 11-acre site, which is worth about £4 million. Helen Alaily, chairman of the Friends of Charters-Ancaster School, whose daughter Jeehan is head girl, said: "We are told it is because there are not enough pupils."

"But we believe otherwise. If there had been a problem over money or falling numbers they would surely have told us and we could have helped to do something." She said it

was quite extraordinary that there had been no notice or even inkling that the school was in trouble. "It is appalling that we have been treated in this way."

Ivor Brampton, a governor at the 250-pupil school, and a local Conservative councillor and deputy lieutenant for Sussex, said he was astonished that he was not informed about the proposed merger. "At the meeting where it was announced I had to make my



Brampton: astonished by proposed merger

position abundantly clear. I knew nothing about it. I am devastated by this decision and it has been handled with total insensitivity."

A letter from the campaigners will arrive at the Charity Commission today questioning whether the trust, a registered charity that owns 26 schools, has acted within its charter and within the laws governing charities. But the trust dismissed parental allegations of asset-stripping and disclosed that the Charity Commission had already approved its proposals to amalgamate with Battle Abbey School in September.

Michael Oakley, secretary of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, said it had been subsidising the school by £100,000 a year since it took control in 1988. He said the trust was heavily committed to making a success of the merger and was committing "land, buildings and money" worth more than £250,000 a year.

He said that the trust had invested heavily in staff and new buildings at Charters-

Ancaster and, although academic standards had risen significantly, not enough new pupils had been attracted. As a small school, and the only one of the 26 to take boarders, it did not fit easily under the trust's umbrella.

Mr Oakley rejected as nonsense the suggestion that selling the site had been a motive in merging the school. He said parents had not been told until after the decision was made to avoid weeks of speculation and rumour which would otherwise have jeopardised delicate and complicated merger negotiations.

David Authers, assistant secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, which represents most of the teachers, said: "If this merger takes place, we want as many children as possible to transfer to Battle Abbey to make the enlarged school viable and offer continuity for pupils and teachers." For every 15 pupils who enrol for Battle Abbey in the next school year, one teacher from Charters-Ancaster will be given a job.



Helen Alaily, chairman of the Friends of Charters-Ancaster School and her daughter Jeehan, who is head girl

## Independents hit by decline in boarding

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE sharp decline in the number of parents choosing a boarding education for their children is taking a grave toll on smaller independent schools such as Charters-Ancaster.

Head teachers and governors, as in any private business faced with dwindling demand, have struggled to make ends meet as pupil numbers have fallen by an eighth in the past two years. There has been a steady stream of recent closures, despite the emerging economic recovery. Schools had hoped the expense of boarding was responsible for its decline. But they have found that today's parents are increasingly unwilling to "send their children away", particularly at an early age.

The latest census of the 1,350 members of the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) discloses that boarding numbers continue to fall but the rate of decline is slowing. It is down from 6.2 per cent in 1992 to 5.2 per cent last year. Schools in rural areas have found it especially hard to compensate by increasing day pupil rolls.

Dick Davison, deputy director of Isis, said that 12 member schools had closed

last year, but noted an encouraging trend for governors to seek mergers before financial problems became overwhelming. Mr Davison cited last week's decision by Pentchos College, a girls' boarding school in Colwyn Bay, Cwyl, to merge with its larger mixed neighbour Rydal School. He said this was better for pupils and parents than the closure last summer of Felbstowe College in Suffolk. The school, a victim of falling pupil numbers, told parents a month before the end of term that it would not reopen in September.

Mergers, however, can be as controversial as outright closure with parents. Some at Hawtreys protested at the preparatory school's speech day in July after it was disclosed that the head was being paid as an incentive to persuade pupils to transfer to Cheam, in Berkshire, as part of a merger.

The Girls' Public Day School Trust is adamant that it is acting in the best interests of pupils at Charters-Ancaster. The trust, founded in 1872, is responsible for an impressive number of "blue chip" schools. Charters-Ancaster is the only trust school to take boarders.

## GP murder charge dropped

A murder charge against Dr Patrick Alesworth, 48, accused of killing his daughter Sara at their home in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, last April, was reduced to manslaughter yesterday. Reading Crown Court adjourned the case against Dr Alesworth, a GP, for two weeks.

## Two remanded

David Moon, 18, and a youth aged 15 were remanded in custody by magistrates at Bromley, southeast London, charged with murdering Emily Sims, 16, after a dance.

## Fireman fined

A Leicester fire-engine driver on an emergency call who hit a car after going through a red light was fined £250 by magistrates for careless driving.

## Debut flight

A United Airlines Boeing 777 will make the 300-seat aircraft's first fare-paying passenger flight from Heathrow to Washington DC on June 7.

## Pensioned off

Connie Reay, 77, of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, came out of hospital to find a bank computer error over her pension had left her officially dead.

## Nuclear fishing

A nuclear reactor at Dungeness A power station in Kent had to be shut down yesterday after a shoal of sprats got into the cooling system.

## Northern Ireland pupils excel in GCSEs

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

PUPILS in Northern Ireland outperformed their English counterparts in GCSEs, according to Government figures published yesterday. Forty-nine per cent of pupils in the Province achieved five or more GCSEs at the top A-C grades, compared with 43 per cent in England.

The Department of Education in Northern Ireland said the figures reflected the quality of teaching. But Father Denis Faul, principal of St Patrick's Boys Academy in Dungannon, Co Tyrone, which was equal top of the league, said they "failed to give the whole picture".

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## Lottery competition forces pools firm to cut £8m charity cash

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A FOOTBALL pools company is being forced by competition from the National Lottery to cut donations to charity by £8 million a year.

Vernons said yesterday that after suffering a 15 per cent fall in turnover since the introduction of the lottery in November, it would be stopping its voluntary contributions to the Foundation for Sports and the Arts from next year. The company has traditionally donated 5p in every pound of its turnover to the FSA.

Phil Jarrold, managing director, said the company deeply regretted the decision. "We must however give priority to investing in our business so that we remain a strong competitor to the National Lottery in the years ahead."

Last month Vernons announced that it was laying off more than 90 of its full-time staff as a direct result of the National Lottery. Sir Tim Rice, chairman of the FSA, said the withdrawal of Ver-

non's donations was a body blow to the foundation. "It seems to be defeating the point of the National Lottery, which was founded to raise money for good causes, if it results in money being diverted away from other sources of funds for sport and the arts."

Sir Tim added that the pools companies faced unfair competition from the National Lottery since they paid more in tax and had greater restrictions on prize pay-outs and promotion. "They are taking on the National Lottery with one hand tied behind their back."

Vernons emphasised that although it was suspending voluntary donations to the FSA, it would continue to pay the 2.5 per cent levy that is obligatory under the 1991 Finance Act. Since the FSA was created in 1991 it has received £42 million from Vernons through contributions. Last year the company gave £8.2 million in voluntary donations

and £4.1 million through the levy.

In a separate development yesterday, an opinion poll commissioned by the TSB Bank found that 75 per cent of those asked think the size of the National Lottery jackpot should be reduced and the number of smaller prizes increased. According to the survey of 979 people conducted by NOP, 54 per cent said the upper limit should be £5 million or less, while 26 per cent said there should be no upper limit.

A spokesman for Camelot, the National Lottery operator, said its own surveys showed the public was split 50-50 on whether the jackpot prize should be restricted. Camelot said yesterday that only one ticket containing all six winning numbers — 15, 18, 29, 35, 38 and 48 — had been sold for Saturday's draw. It was not known if the winner had come forward to claim the prize of £9,015,108.



PC Secar: "He was more like a brother"

## PC denies rape of fellow officer

By LUCY BERRINGTON

A WOMAN police officer was raped after a new year party by a drunken colleague she regarded as an "English gent", the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

PC Michael Secar, 25, of Lightwater, Surrey, denies raping the 23-year-old WPC from the Surrey force after a "toffs and tarts" party on January 1 last year.

The woman told the court PC Secar had been a close friend. "He was almost like a brother, very caring, very friendly, an English gent."

She did not go to the party but spent most of the evening at home, where she was briefly visited by various friends, including PC Secar, who gave her a "thoroughly unwelcome" drunken embrace.

He had left the room but soon after 2.30am joined the WPC, who was sitting with her boyfriend, a fellow police officer who had just come off duty and who was a friend of the defendant. Her boyfriend had left to have a shower and the defendant had talked about how drunk

he was. "He asked could I help him go to his room," she said.

She had supported him as he staggered along the corridor. In his room he had locked the door, tried to kiss her, bit her neck and, when she resisted, forced her to the bed. There was a prolonged struggle and he raped her, she said. He was holding her down by the wrists. "I couldn't understand how someone who could hardly walk, who was slurring their speech, could suddenly change." He had stopped suddenly and she had returned to her own room where her boyfriend was already asleep.

Peter Clarke, for the prosecution, said she kept the attack secret and did not mention the rape until the spring of 1994 when she made a formal complaint to senior police officers.

PC Secar was alleged to have said that the two of them had embraced but insisted that at no time had they had sexual intercourse. The case continues.

## Hospital tells 999 drivers to go away

By NIGEL HAWKES

HOMERTON Hospital in east London yesterday asked the ambulance service not to bring any accident and emergency cases until further notice because it is full.

"We're still open for walking wounded or for cases like stabbings but we've asked ambulances to divert to other hospitals," a spokeswoman said. The pressure on the hospital, in Hackney, has not been caused by the closure of accident and emergency services at St Bartholomew's Hospital but by the annual peak in respiratory infections and the number of older people too frail to send home.

This is the third time in the past few months that the hospital has asked ambulances not to bring new patients.

Surgeons at Guy's Hospital in London have threatened to stop operating when the hospital's intensive care beds are transferred to nearby St Thomas's. Only three of the hospital's 30 consultant surgeons are confident that they can continue operating safely.

## Teenagers held after woman is impaled

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN was critically ill last night after being impaled on railings when she was hit by a stolen car.

Three teenagers, aged 13, 14 and 16, have been questioned by police over the incident in Sheffield on Sunday.

Collette Maragh, 27, a student, underwent ten hours of surgery in the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, where surgeons had to close a wound in her throat and then set a number of broken bones. She also has severe internal injuries.

Last night her condition was said to be "critical" but stable. She was on a life-support machine. Her parents, who had travelled from their home in Luton, Bedfordshire, on Sunday were at her bedside.

Miss Maragh, who is in the second year of a communication studies course at Hallam University in Sheffield, was standing on the pavement near her student digs when the car turned at speed into the street. Witnesses said the driver appeared to lose control, narrowly missing several parked cars on his own side of the road before swerving to the wrong side, mounting the kerb and striking Miss Maragh. She was tossed into the air and fell on to a spiked fence surrounding a commercial property. She then fell to the pavement.

The car, an Austin Montego stolen in Sheffield in the early hours, ploughed through the railings, careered down a bank and rammed a wall. Witnesses reported at least two youths running away. Other students came to Miss Maragh's assistance and one, a medical student, gave her first aid.

## Teacher sacked over sex lessons

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BIOLOGY teacher sacked over topics he covered in a sex lesson was within council guidelines, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

The Manchester hearing was told that Vincent Pedley, 50, could not have breached the sex education policy at the Jewish King David High School in Crumpsall, Manchester, because he had never seen it.

Mr Pedley was dismissed from the school after parents complained that he had discussed masturbation and oral sex. He was alleged to have told one mixed class that he had been "turned on" when giving his first sex education lesson and told a girl that he liked her cleavage.

The governors ruled that Mr Pedley, of Urmston, Greater Manchester, was not qualified to deal with such sensitive issues and should have referred pupils who asked explicit questions to the Jewish studies department.

Mr Pedley is claiming unfair dismissal against the school and Manchester council. David Isherwood, who worked at the school for 17 years, said that one of the pupils who made allegations against Mr Pedley was "a boy who made wild statements and caused trouble".

Peter Bentley, representing Mr Pedley, who was dismissed for gross misconduct in 1993, said that the city council's education policy required teachers to "deal with all aspects of human sexuality". Teachers were supposed to "develop the personal confidence of the individual to talk about sexuality, using the appropriate vocabulary".

The hearing continues.

## Red Cross loses NHS café to McDonald's

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE fast-food chain McDonald's is considering opening its first branch in a Scottish hospital. The company is in talks with the Southern General NHS Trust in Glasgow with a view to taking over a café run by the Red Cross in the hospital shopping mall.

When the Southern General became an NHS Trust last year the Red Cross was told it would have to put in a new tender for the site but it was outbid by McDonald's. A decision on the project will be made next week.

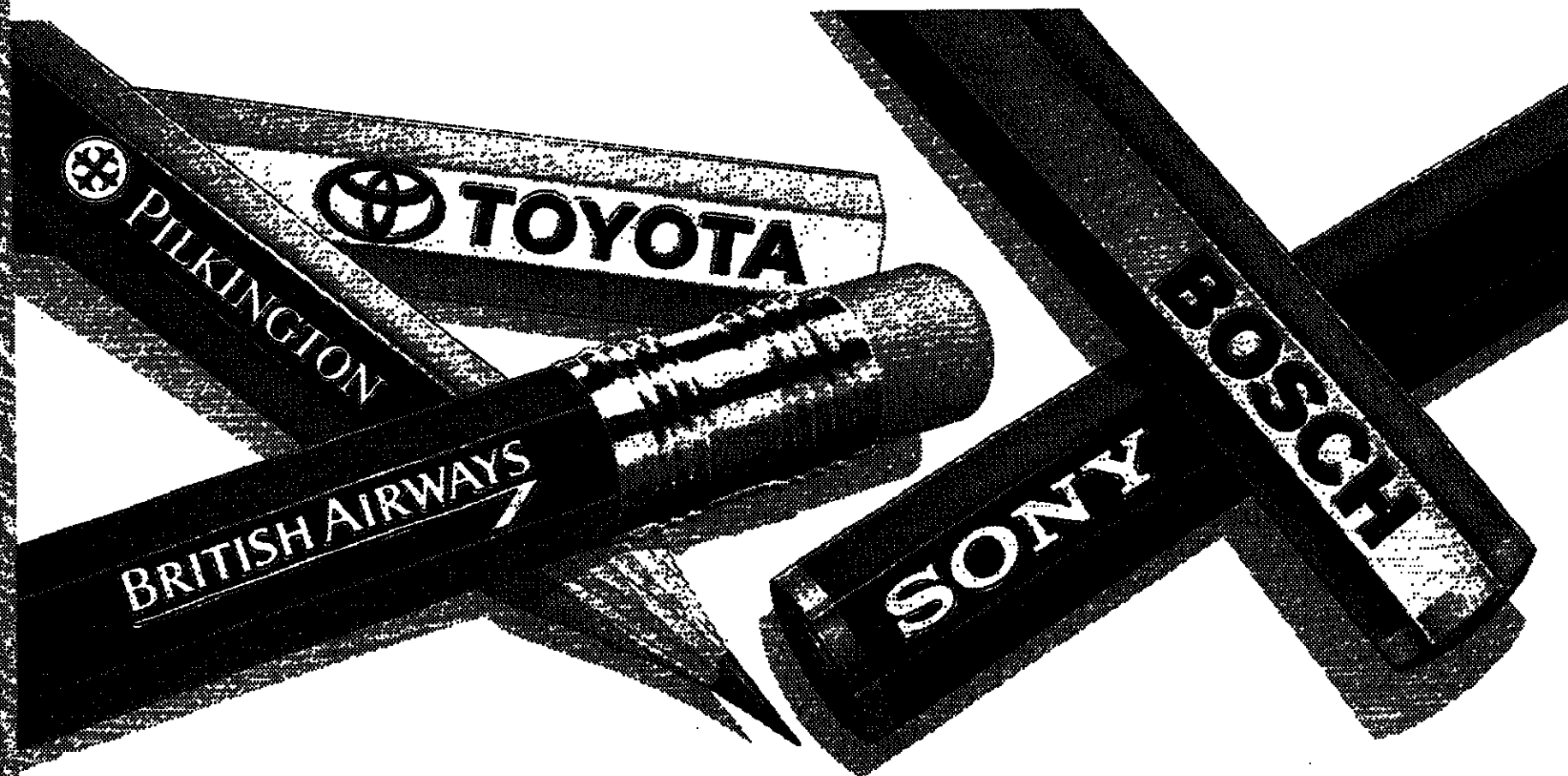
If it goes ahead, it is bound to cause controversy. Scots have one of the least healthy diets in Europe and one of

the highest premature death rates. A high consumption of fats and junk food have been blamed for Scotland's high incidence of heart disease and obesity.

McDonald's, which already has an outlet at Guy's Hospital in London, says that its burgers should be eaten as part of a balanced diet and that its food is nutritious. The restaurant would serve as a canteen for patients, staff and visitors.

A recent Scottish Office report into the nation's diet found that 20 per cent of men never eat green vegetables and a third of boys eat chips every day.

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# MoD chiefs consider scrapping £264m project for spy aircraft



BY MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS by the Ministry of Defence to develop a remote-controlled surveillance aircraft might be abandoned, ten years and £264 million after the project began.

The Phoenix, a pilotless aircraft that should have been available to help British artillery units to hit Iraqi armour in the Gulf War but is still not in service, could be scrapped in favour of a foreign alternative because it too often sustains damage when it lands.

The uncertain future of the

Phoenix, which is already six years behind schedule, has been highlighted by a senior Ministry of Defence source who said that the project was being evaluated.

One of the difficulties is that when the Phoenix air vehicle comes back to ground it often lands too heavily and causes damage to the fuselage. The Phoenix floats down by parachute and is supposed to land gently on its back. A GEC-Marconi source confirmed there was a problem: "When it comes down it occasionally sustains more damage than we initially thought would happen."

The Ministry of Defence eval-

uation team is now examining three options: to scrap Phoenix and buy off the shelf; to press on; or "to get someone else to do it".

The senior MoD source said: "It's a major problem for the contractors but we have to protect the taxpayers."

The airborne surveillance system, which is supposed to send pictures of enemy positions to ground stations, has been developed by GEC-Marconi Avionics.

One defence official claimed that the Phoenix was turning into a "mini Nimrod" of the notorious Nimrod affair. The Nimrod airborne early warning aircraft, also developed by GEC-

Marconi, was scrapped by the Government eight years ago after about £900 million had been spent.

The advanced radar on Nimrod did not meet RAF specifications. The Government bought the Avac early warning system from Boeing instead.

MPs on the Commons Defence Committee are shortly to begin their own investigation into Phoenix, with their first hearing in two weeks. The senior MoD source denied that Phoenix was "another Nimrod".

The source said in the case of Phoenix, the electronics and imaging were "fine". But there

were four technical problems, none of which involved "leading edge" technology. "However, they are vital and if they can't be put right easily, we may have to look elsewhere," the source said.

The reliability of the Phoenix system was examined by the National Audit Office last year. Its report said that steps should have been taken by the MoD long ago to renegotiate the contract or take other remedial measures.

The Phoenix can be flown either autonomously or by command from the operator who needs no piloting skills. Its primary task is to pick out

targets for the British Army's new multiple launch rocket system, which proved so effective in the Gulf War.

GEC-Marconi said the production of the Phoenix was already under way and several systems had been delivered to the Army, although they were not yet in service.

The figure of £264 million at 1993-94 prices is quoted in the National Audit Office report. However, GEC-Marconi said the money spent so far was considerably less than that. Other reports suggest that about £230 million has been spent, double the original budget.

## Biological make-up may hold key to criminal behaviour

THERE is no such thing as a natural-born killer but genetic make-up may make a person more likely to commit criminal or anti-social acts, scientists said yesterday.

Evidence that genes play a part in social deviance is to be presented at a three-day meeting in London on genes and crime, attended by psychologists, geneticists and lawyers from Europe and the United States.

Studies of twins who have been involved in crimes ranging from juvenile delinquency to serious offences have shown that identical twins, who share the same genes, are more similar in their anti-social behaviour than fraternal twins. Studies of children who have been adopted show that

Genetics may help us to understand why some people are more likely to commit anti-social acts. Jeremy Laurance reports

their anti-social behaviour is more like that of their genetic parents than their adoptive parents.

The meeting, organised by the Ciba Foundation, a charitable trust established in 1949 to promote communication among scientists, follows the cancellation of a similar event in the United States after it provoked a political dispute. Scientists involved in the "criminal genes" debate have been accused of racism.

Professor Sir Michael Rutter, chairman of the con-

ference and head of the department of child psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, said there was no single gene for crime and that the finding of a genetic influence did not mean that environmental factors were unimportant. "That is not how genes operate. Rather they affect how people behave and how they respond to stress. Whether or not this results in crime will depend to a large extent on circumstances."

Professor Rutter said there was "no one entity of crime" and illegal acts ranged from highly principled civil disobedience to widespread anti-social behaviour. The aim was to gain an understanding of how risk factors operated to help to prevent and remedy problems.

There were "huge individual differences" in the way children responded to family discord and disruption, he said. "We don't understand why. If we understood the mechanisms involved, we would be in a much better position to do something about it."

Dr Greg Carey, of the Institute of Behavioural Genetics at the University of Colorado, said there was no answer to the origins of crime. "We are not insects with strong and rigid genetic programming. We are flexible. Two people with the same genes will not turn out the same. There are very strong environmental factors. This conference will not be delivering a ringing endorsement of biological determinism."

Dr Carey said that criminal behaviour could be influenced by an interplay between genes that affected views of risk-taking, the perceived benefits of cheating and the fear associated with being caught. "We know very little about the mechanisms which may start with DNA but result in anti-social behaviour."

## Convicted killer seeks brain test

BY OUR HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

VIOLENCE, aggression and anti-social behaviour dominate the family tree of Stephen Mobley, 29, a convicted murderer awaiting the death sentence in an American jail.

His uncles, aunts and grandfather were all affected and Mobley had a history of violent and criminal behaviour from childhood before shooting dead a pizza manager in 1991. However, his family tree also contains several highly successful businessmen, including his father, a self-made multimillionaire in the shoe trade.

"There is a fine line between the aggressive success of the self-made businessman and the violent outrage of the criminal," Dr Deborah Denno, associate professor at the Fordham University School of Law, New York, will tell the Ciba Foundation conference today.

Lawyers acting for Mobley asked a court to allow him to undergo neurological tests to determine whether he was suffering from an imbalance

of brain chemicals that may have contributed to his behaviour. The court rejected the request on the ground that the influence of genes on criminal behaviour was not yet scientifically accepted. The case has gone to appeal.

The lawyers based their request on evidence from The Netherlands where a family with a history of aggression was shown to have a deficiency of a brain chemical, monoamine oxidase A, associated with a mutation in a gene.

Dr Denno said it was unlikely that the higher court would allow the appeal but she expected the principle of genetic influence to be admissible in court within five years. "It is inconsistent to reject it when other medical factors about which we have limited knowledge are accepted," she said, and added: "A genetic abnormality could be compared to other sorts of biological, psychological or sociological factors which have been admitted as evidence in court."



Watercolour of a dog attributed to Charlotte Brontë. The author left more than 100 drawings and had a serious ambition to be an artist

## Revealed: portrait of the Brontës as young artists

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Brontë sisters are about to be seen in a new light as a collection of their paintings and drawings goes on show for the first time.

Jane Sellars, director of the Brontë Society, said that the importance of art in the lives of the sisters — Charlotte, Emily and Anne — and their brother Branwell had not been appreciated.

She said: "The imaginations which produced *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* also produced exquisitely delicate and romantic portraits of fictional heroes and heroines, detailed sketches of each other and of their pets, careful flower studies, and designs for miniature worked embroideries."

Few have been aware of the sisters' talents as painters and illustrators, although they left more than 360 images between them. Part of the reason for this is that most of their work is owned by the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth, North York-

shire, where the Brontës lived, and has been shown only occasionally.

Two exhibitions, at Haworth and Sotheby's in London, and a book co-written by Ms Sellars and Christine Alexander, associate professor at the University of New South Wales, will show that the works are more than the relics of famous writers.

Ms Sellars said: "Most would know that Branwell attempted a career as portrait

painter in Bradford, but we have discovered that Charlotte, who left well over 100 drawings, had a serious ambition to be an artist."

The authors' research took them back to an 1834 exhibition, which Charlotte is known to have visited: they found a sole surviving copy of the catalogue in Leeds reference library, and discovered that Charlotte, at the age of 18, was among the exhibitors. She showed two drawings of Kirkstall Abbey in Leeds and Bolton Abbey in North Yorkshire: both are on show at Haworth.

Her research reattributed a watercolour of a dog from Charlotte to Emily. Ms Summers said: "That increases Emily's oeuvre by a lot because there is hardly anything by her." The exhibition runs at Sotheby's from tomorrow to March 1 at Haworth, until February 1996. The book will be published by Cambridge University Press on February 23.



Grasper, the family pet terrier, by Emily Brontë



A French brunette portrayed by Charlotte Brontë

## Heart disease linked to small babies

BY OUR HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HEART disease, high blood pressure and diabetes may be linked to the supply of nutrient to the brain of a fetus, a leading scientist claimed yesterday.

Professor David Barker, head of the Environmental Health Unit at Southampton University, said that 17 studies around the world had confirmed the link between low birth-weight (indicating under-nutrition in the womb) and high blood pressure.

Because of its size the human brain demands a high level of nutrients as it develops in the womb and that may leave other vital systems in the fetus under-nourished. The result is a baby prone to heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes in adult life. "Different parts of the fetus undergo very rapid cell division at different times during pregnancy,"

Professor Barker said. "These are the so-called critical windows of development when those tissues are vulnerable to under-nutrition. If the fetus is under-nourished at that time those parts suffer permanent damage."

The critical window for muscle development was a short period around the twentieth week of gestation, for the pancreas a longer period from mid-gestation into infancy and for the kidneys a few weeks before birth. During periods of under-nutrition the fetus attempts to protect the supply of nutrients to the brain, which makes the greatest demand. "Heart disease seems to be linked to the sacrifice of tissues in mid-fetal life to save the brain," he said.

A study of 16,000 adults born before 1930 in Hertfordshire showed that those

who weighed under 6lb at birth had almost twice the risk of dying of heart disease before 65 compared with those who weighed 9lb. Other evidence suggests that small, round, fat babies have a lower risk of heart disease than long, thin ones. Studies have shown that babies born with small abdomens have a 30 per cent higher risk of dying of heart disease in adult life.

The development of the abdomen coincides with that of the blood cholesterol and coagulation systems which, when affected, raises the risk. Thin babies born with little muscle are similarly at greater risk of developing diabetes in later life.

In India and the Far East, where birth weights are low by Western standards, there is little heart disease because fetal growth rates are low from the outset.

## Gene therapy patients saved from 'test-tube existence'

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

PATIENTS treated by gene therapy are no longer to be classified as genetically modified organisms, subject to special controls before being "released" into the environment.

They had come under the same health and safety rules as plants and bacteria whose genes had been altered.

Volunteers taking part in the cystic fibrosis trial at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, for example, ought to have been reviewed to ensure they were safe to release. A spokesman for the Health and

Safety Executive said: "If we had stuck to the letter of the law, we would have considered these people to a test-tube existence."

The executive published proposals yesterday to exclude humans and human embryos from the category. "This is an example of how technological advances have outstripped the existing regulations," it says.

The executive has also proposed a simplified system for classifying micro-organisms, such as bacteria, modified by genetic engineering. The sys-

tem is designed to protect the public against the release of organisms that might cause damage or pass modified genes to other species.

The new system classifies the organisms according to their potential harmfulness and will bring British regulations into line with a European Union directive due to come into force at the end of April. The proposals are now open to responses from interested parties.

Body and Mind, page 14

## Children of alcoholics suffer pain in silence

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MORE than 500,000 children live with a parent who has a drink problem, a conference on alcohol abuse was told yesterday.

Many suffer years of physical, emotional and sexual abuse, but are afraid to talk about it. Sue Cork of Childline said. Most would call the charity's confidential helpline only if their lives were threatened.

Speaking at a conference on Alcohol and the Family in London, Ms Cork said that it was not just fear of reprisals from their parents that prevented children from speaking out. "They are afraid they will be placed in care or that their parents will get sick and die," she said.

According to the Institute of Alcohol Studies, two million adults have alcohol problems, but only 5,490 children (4,316 girls and 1,174 boys) called Childline about alcohol abuse. Some believe the law overlooks abused children. Jonathan Goodlife, a solicitor who specialises in family law, said: "When dealing with violence in the home caused by alcohol problems, judges tend to treat the violence as the problem, not the real cause."

Dr Richard Velleman, a psychiatrist, said young people from problem drinking homes were more likely to start drinking and using drugs at an early age.

Day Two... An impossible situation... with apparently no solution

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# Downpour overwhelms decrepit sewer system

By IAN MURRAY  
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

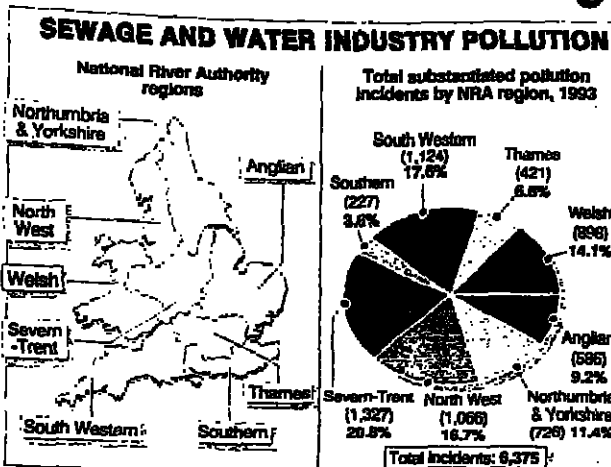
BRITAIN'S ageing sewerage system is breaking down under the pressures of one of the wettest winters on record. Rainfall has been well above average since last August and sewerage pipes and treatment plants cannot cope.

One-third of the 25,000 combined sewerage and stormwater overflows in England and Wales "present some kind of problem", according to the National Rivers Authority (NRA). These overflows can legally be used by water companies to drain a mix of raw sewage and rainwater into rivers or flood plains when the flow through plants is too great to be treated.

"Poor sewerage infrastructure and inadequate capacity exist throughout England and Wales," the authority said in its latest report on water pollution, issued last September, before the onset of the winter's heaviest rains. Since then, the aquifers have filled up, which means rain cannot easily soak away and has to flow through the sewerage system.

The problem has been exacerbated by the construction of housing on green-belt land. Instead of soaking into the ground, rainwater is caught on roofs and roadways and channelled into the drainage system where it mixes with household waste.

"A lot of sewage treatment works designed years ago for smaller populations cannot cope with the extra stormwater, so they let it flood out mixed with the raw sewage," according to Guy Linley-Adams, of Friends of the Earth. "This sort of thing happens regularly all over the country."



reported incidents of water pollution, of which 331 were classified as serious. The NRA blames a quarter of these on sewage. "There is no centralised system of monitoring because each company uses a slightly different method. We are revising the system so that we can apply the same kind of standards everywhere," the authority spokesman said.

The plus side of heavy rainfall is that the sewage is already extremely diluted by the time it overflows into a swollen river.

The Sports Council has commissioned a study of the River Trent after complaints that canoeists using the National Water Sports Centre near Nottingham are contracting sewage-borne diseases.

Brian Pluckrose, a manager at the centre, said pollution was washed down the Trent from industrial towns. "We have been closing down when we can tell visually that it is likely to be dangerous," he said. "It is always worse when it floods. We wouldn't mind if they forewarned us when this stuff is going to be drained into the river, but they haven't got any monitoring system."

In 1993 there were 25,299



To the chagrin of farmers and golf course greenkeepers, and the delight of ecologists, rabbits are reoccupying the British countryside after surviving 40 years of the ravages of myxomatosis (Michael Hornsby writes). Estimates put the population at about a third of the pre-

## Rabbits bounce back

1950 figure, which was between 60 and 90 million. Farmers have regarded the rabbit as a particularly tenacious pest since early in the last century. Badly infested farms can have up to 40

rabbits per hectare and every year they are estimated to eat crops worth £100 million. Gordon McKillop, a zoologist at the Government's Central Science Laboratory, said: "The survivors have developed a degree of immunity to myxomatosis, which is passed on from one generation to the next."

However Diana Bell, a biologist at the University of East Anglia, said that myxomatosis was still virulent. "It is quite wrong to say rabbits have become immune."

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer South		Game all. Teams	
♠ 9542 ♥ KQ1065 ♦ J63 ♣ AKJ6		♠ Q ♥ K8543 ♦ 982 ♣ 10552	
W	N	E	S
Pass	3♠ (1)	Pass	2NT
Pass	5♠ (2)	Pass	3♠
All pass		Pass	6♠

Contract: 5♠ Spades by South. Opening lead: three of spades

By ROBERT SHEEHAN  
A card game correspondent

(1) Stayman, asking for four-card majors.  
(2) Asking his partner to bid the slam with good trumps.

In one room declarer won the trump lead, drew a second trump and then played off his diamonds. West ruffed the third round and played a third round of trumps. Declarer discarded one heart and one club on the diamonds, but eventually had to take a club finesse. Down one.

In the other room declarer played better. He won the ace of spades, played a heart to dummy's ace, a diamond to his jack, ruffed a heart, played a diamond to his ace, ruffed another heart and then played

a trump. Had trumps been 3-2 he would have made all 13 tricks, but when East showed out all he could do was draw another trump and play a diamond. West ruffed and played another heart. Declarer ruffed but had to lead away from his club tenace. Down one.

The second declarer had the right idea but he put all his faith on trumps breaking. What he should have done was to duck the queen of spades at trick one. If East continues with a trump, he will still make 12 tricks (five diamonds, five trump tricks and two aces); if East switches, declarer can still take his two heart ruffs but the difference is that he has kept control by losing the first round of trumps rather than the last round.

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Kamsky ahead**

In the Fide semi-finals at Sangli Nagar, India, Gata Kamsky has surged ahead in his match against Valery Salov. The match between Karpov and Gelfand remains level with one win each. The following two games from the matches exhibited remarkable stylistic similarities.

**White: Gata Kamsky**  
**Black: Valery Salov**

**Queen's Gambit Accepted**

1	d4	c5
2	c4	cxd4
3	e4	Nc6
4	Bc3	Nf6
5	Nc3	e5
6	d5	Nd5
7	Nf3	a6
8	Nxe5	b6
9	Bd2	Bb4
10	Qd4	O-O
11	g4	Bb7
12	Ng4	Nc4
13	Bg4	Oe7
14	Rd1	Rd8
15	Bd1	Rd8
16	Qc3	Bd6
17	Bd3	Oe7
18	Rf1	Qe7
19	h3	g6
20	Qd3	g6
21	Nd2	h6
22	Bd5	Oe5
23	Nd4	Kg8
24	Bg6	h6
25	Qg6+	Qg7
26	Qx6	Re5
27	Qh4	Oe7
28	Qg4+	Qg7
29	Nd6	Qg4
30	h4	Re5
31	Qe5	Rd8
32	Qd6	Rd8
33	Rd1	Rd8
34	Rd7	Rd8
35	h5	Nc6
36	h4	b4
37	h5	Kf8
38	h6	c3
39	h7	bxc3
40	h8	Nd3
41	h9	Rd3
42	h10	Rd3
43	h11	Bg6

**White: Boris Gelfand**  
**Black: Anatoly Karpov**

**Caro-Kann Defence**

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	e5	Bd6
4	Nf3	e6
5	Be2	c5
6	Bd3	cx4
7	Nxc4	Nc7
8	c4	Nb6
9	Qe4	Oe7
10	Nd3	Nxe5
11	Oxe5	Nd5
12	Nd5	ex5
13	Nd5	ex5
14	Bd2	ex5
15	Nd4	Bd4
16	Nd5	O-O
17	Bd4	Nb4
18	O-O	b5
19	h4	Rd8
20	Rd1	Kf8
21	Nd6	Rd8
22	a3	Rd7
23	Bf3	Rd7
24	Rf1	Rd8
25	h5	h5
26	Bg5	Rd7
27	Bd7	Rd6
28	Rd6	Kd7
29	exd6	Nd7
30	exd6	Nd7
31	d7	Nd8
32	Re6	a5
33	Kf2	Kf8
34	Qa3	Kf8
35	g4	Kf8
36	h4	b4
37	h5	ex4
38	Kd2	Kf6
39	Kd1	g6
40	h6	Kg6
41	h7	Kf6
42	Kc1	Kf6
43	Kf8	Kf6
44	Kg8	Kf6
45	Re8	Black resigns

Winning Move, page 44

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# Squabbling Tories 'are jeopardising peace and stability'

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

PADDY ASHDOWN criticised the Tory party's internal wrangling over Europe yesterday saying that it was mindlessly destroying the "biggest political idea this century".

Opening a Liberal Democrat debate in the Commons calling for a referendum on any further changes with Britain's relationship with the European Union, Mr Ashdown said: "The battleground of Europe has been ceded to a tiny minority of the Tory Right." The Liberal Democrat leader said that the idea of a European Union was the biggest political idea this century and the most important safeguard for prosperity, peace and stability in the next.

He said: "Europe is far too important an issue to be left to an internal spat in the Conservative Party, the minor mathematics of the Conservative whip and a weak leadership."

But his hope of defeating the Government was dashed by Labour's refusal to support the Liberal Democrats because it does not want to be "bounced" into a decision on a referendum.

With Labour imposing only a one-line whip on its MPs, the Government was heading for an easy victory, with or without the support of the nine whipless Euro-rebels.

Mr Ashdown said that Parliament had no right to give away sovereignty without asking the people. "The powers that we have are not ours as of right to give away as we wish. They are vested in us through the democratic process by the people of this country and those powers should only be redistributed with the consent of the people from whom they come."

"The debate about Europe has been a politicians' debate which has excluded the people who Europe is supposed to serve. Maastricht was a politicians' treaty, drawn up in the gilded palaces of Europe, couched in language which most people couldn't understand and many cabinet ministers didn't even bother to read, and which passed through this House in a charade of indecipherable late-night procedures and fun-

ny hats. Next time, we have to engage our electorates in the debate and carry them with us."

David Davis, minister of state at the Foreign Office, agreed that EU membership was in Britain's national interest but ridiculed the Liberal Democrats' motion. "It is a paradox that we are debating these vital issues on such an irrelevant motion but characteristic of the Liberal Party," he said.

"The motion calls for a referendum before any substantial alteration of the present constitutional settlement between the EU and its member states. But such a substantial change would require the assent of every single member state and it won't get it. Therefore the question of a referendum will not arise."

Joyce Quin, a Labour spokeswoman on Europe, said: "Our position is quite clear. We believe that people should be consulted. Whether that will be with a referendum or an election very much depends on the timing and circumstances."

Tony Benn, the hard-left Labour MP for Chesterfield, said that he was deeply disappointed that the Labour Party had decided to abstain on the motion. "I am not working hard for a Labour government so that the leader of the Labour Party, instead of being First Lord of the Treasury, will be the chairman of the British municipal corporation, pleading with Frankfurt in order to get permission to do something about unemployment."

Bill Cash, the first Tory Euro-sceptic to speak, said that he would support the Liberal Democrat motion. He said the Tories had supported the principle of referendums in the past. In 1972 there had been the Northern Ireland border poll and the Tories had campaigned over votes on Europe in 1975 and devolution in 1978. He insisted that a referendum was now the only way to discover "what the people outside really think".

Leading article, page 17

## Tories 'may defect to fringe parties'

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

A WARNING that disgruntled Tories could defect to fringe parties promising a tough stance towards Brussels was issued last night by the former Trade Minister Neil Hamilton.

Mr Hamilton coupled his warning with a plea for the Government to commit itself to a referendum on any moves towards a single currency. A failure to do so would risk a repetition of the election defeat of 1974 when disaffected Conservatives switched to Labour because of Harold Wilson's promise of renegotiation of the terms of entry and a plebiscite on the outcome.

The former minister, who was forced to resign his post

late last year at the height of the controversy over MPs' business links, told a meeting of the Bruges Group in London that minor parties, such as the UK Independence Party and Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, could pose a threat to Tory MPs at the election.

"Independent candidates could provide a repository for the votes of the disgruntled. A few hundred votes in a few dozen constituencies may make the difference between being in government and out of it."

Chris Gill, one of the nine whipless Tory rebels, told the meeting that a single currency would hasten the break-up of the United Kingdom.



Mr Brown, who described the executive share options as "daylight robbery"

## Brown rails at £100m tally of share-option profits

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

SHARE option profits gained by the top executives of privatised utilities have passed a total of £100 million, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said last night.

Speaking at a rally in Islay, where the former Labour leader Neil Kinnock's seat will be filled in a by-election on Thursday, Mr Brown said that the water industry's £16 million profits had pushed the total to £101 million, which was shared by only 145 directors and executives. In the case of the water industry this was on top of a 400 per cent rise in

salaries since privatisation, he said.

Today Sir Desmond Piche, chairman of Northwest Water, will face a grilling from the all-party Commons Select Committee on Employment over the £4.9 million of options shared by the directors of his company.

Mr Brown said Labour's polling had shown great public anger about the share options. "Privatised industry remuneration packages are a new form of daylight robbery, a raid on millions of consumers paying more because of them. A central test of this unfair Govern-

ment is its failure to act against the abuses we have exposed in the privatised water, gas, electricity and telecom industries."

The £101 million in share-option profits includes £50 million for regional electricity companies, £28 million from other electricity companies, £6 million shared between British Telecom, Cable and Wireless and British Gas, and £16 million for the water industry.

General election, 1992: N G Kinnock (Lab), 30,908; P W Bone (C), 6,198; M Symonds (LD), 2,352; H Jones (PC), 1,636. Lab majority: 24,728.

## Too many junior ministers chasing too little work

Two junior ministers have resigned in the past week. The only surprise is that more have not done so, not because they are forced out or disagree over policy but because the job is unsatisfactory.

Being an under-secretary is frustrating and underpaid, with little influence and often not enough to do. Many are also discontented because of the Government's divisions and lack of direction, and worried about the risk of losing both office and even their seats in two years with little to show for it. But their complaints are much more than just a response to the Tories' current political predicament.

There are too many junior ministers for the work to be done. In a letter to the Prime Minister last month, Charles Wardle wrote that the department of trade and industry has "two ministerial posts too many on its strength and could also do with more pruning at official level". Few even in the Treasury understand why they require three junior ministers as well as two Cabinet ministers. Health has four ministers in the Commons and social security five, when the previous combined department had just five. Mr Wardle's views are widely shared, not just by ministers but also by many permanent secretaries, especially now they are having to implement big cuts in the number of senior Civil Service posts.

At present, there are 86 ministers and whips in the Commons, nearly three times as many as a century ago. The size and scope of Government has, of course, increased substantially. But decision-making is concentrated in about three dozen members of the Cabinet and senior ministers of state, who face a heavy workload. The role of the rest is often marginal. Many junior ministers do the work of civil servants in other countries, as happens when they negotiate at meetings of European councils. There is often wasteful duplication as ministers read out civil service briefs. Ministers are also needed to take legislation through the Commons, but that is only occasionally demanding. Otherwise, some ju-

nior ministers can have time on their hands for hobbies or keeping fit. Departments have been known to invent regional trips to keep their junior ministers busy.

The justification for having so many junior ministers is classically British. It is argued that outsiders, lobbying and pressure groups, expect to meet a minister rather than an official. Civil servants take a double-edged view. They privately deplore the number of ministers, yet, at the same time, are happy for some hapless parliamentary under-secretary to undertake the tedious chore of seeing trade associations. Officials are content to hide behind their anonymity.

Chief whips also like to have so many posts available as patronage. With 30 to 40 more parliamentary private secretaries in addition, this provides a useful payroll vote to anchor the Government's majority. However, business managers complain that there is a shortage of suitable junior ministers in view of the lack of rewards and frustrations. There is always someone who will take the place of a minister who has resigned. But the quality is mixed. Some MPs with growing families are unwilling to give up lucrative outside consultancies for the uncertainties of a junior post at this stage of the parliament. Moreover, the whips have found that some parliamentary private secretaries have been more trouble than they are worth. When they run into personal trouble and are forced to resign, as have, there are headlines about "Top Tory quits" when the MP has never been heard of before.

The only reason some other junior ministers have not followed Mr Wardle is that they still rate their chances of promotion. They are loyal to the Government and they worry about what their friends and relations would say. The glow of being an under-secretary soon fades. Even the official car and the deference of officials and the public are thin compensations.

PETER RIDDELL

## Shadow minister defends the Union

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

LABOUR'S Scottish affairs spokesman made an impassioned defence of the Union during a public debate with the Scottish National Party.

George Robertson said that he would turn down a cabinet post in a Labour government in favour of sitting in a devolved Scottish parliament. But if he thought that devolution would lead to independence he would have nothing to do with it.

Devolution would avoid "ripping Scotland" out of a country the Scots had helped to build, he said. "Do we really want to make foreigners of our family and friends down south? Do we really want a separate Scottish currency, changing money for a week-end in Blackpool or to shop at the Gateshead MetroCentre?"

Mr Robertson was debating the relative merits of devolution and independence with Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, in Edinburgh. Mr Salmond said that Labour was as unionist as the Tories.

## Blair aims to double ranks of Labour women MPs

By Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR underlined his determination yesterday to see more Labour women in the House of Commons.

The Labour leader said he hoped that by the next general election there would be at least 76 women MPs in the Labour party, double the present number. But the party's policy of all-women shortlists in 50 per cent of marginal and vacant seats is meeting strong opposition in some areas.

So far only 26 out of 90 marginal seats have drawn up all-women shortlists. Labour Party sources insist that this is equal to a 40 per cent success rate in regions that have already held their "consensus" meetings to decide which seats should go to women. However, only five out of the seven English regions have got to this stage, leaving the North West, Scotland and Wales still to make a decision. Party activists in these areas are complaining that the party is being invaded by well-groomed middle-class women who have little in common with the traditional Labour Party. In some regions, con-

situencies are keen to select highly regarded male candidates who have fought the seat before. In others, men and women are against quotas.

Last year Mr Blair made clear that the policy should be introduced "flexibly and sensibly". But Labour's national executive still has the power to insist that constituencies produce all-women shortlists if they feel that the policy is deliberately being ignored.

At a conference in London yesterday, Mr Blair said: "We can hardly call ourselves a proud representative democracy when less than 10 per cent of MPs are women." Although he did not comment on the controversy over shortlists, he set out to court the women's

vote by insisting that sex equality would be enshrined in the new Clause Four. "The struggle for women is an essential part of my vision of the values and ideals of the new Labour Party."

He said that women should not be sidelined as a special interest group, and emphasised the importance of childcare and nursery education for all parents. "Giving women the power and ability to work is an economic imperative. Fashioning structures in which this can be compatible with a strong and stable family life is a social imperative," he said. "Both require changes of policy in government and in attitude on the part of men."

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, MPs put questions to Welsh ministers divided Britain - the problems of Lancashire. The Liberal Democrats then led a debate on "Europe and a referendum". The Lords debated the Pensions Bill, the South Africa Bill and the Law Reform (Succession) Bill.

TODAY: In the Commons, questions to health ministers and the Prime Minister will be followed by a debate initiated by Labour on "the problems of the Duchy of Lancaster". The Lords debated the Pensions Bill, the South Africa Bill and the Law Reform (Succession) Bill.

Minister will be followed by a debate initiated by Labour on "the problems of the Duchy of Lancaster". The Lords debated the Pensions Bill, the South Africa Bill and the Law Reform (Succession) Bill.

In the Lords, a debate on the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill will be followed by a debate on the call for restoration of democracy in Nigeria.



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# Balladur campaigns with monetary union pledge

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

EDOUARD BALLADUR, the Gaullist Prime Minister, opened his campaign for the presidency yesterday with promises to restore national confidence and to reinforce French leadership in Europe and the world.

Standing stiff and alone, before a theatrical, peach-washed backdrop, the technocrat-politician delivered an exhaustive catalogue of modest proposals that he contrasted with the "empty promises" made by François Mitterrand when he ran for the presidency 14 years ago. The era of division between Left and Right was over, M. Balladur said. He added: "I want to rally the biggest possible number of French in a spirit of tolerance."

Half a dozen loyalists from the politically divided Cabinet watched as M. Balladur, 65, launched himself into the campaign fray at a moment when his long domination of the race has been eroded by the emergence of a Socialist rival, a looming scandal and his surrender last week in a new rash of student protests.

Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist chief who is fighting as the underdog against his own former protégé, and Lionel Jospin, the Socialist candidate,

have seized on the latest incidents to castigate M. Balladur for vacillation and a lack of imagination.

On Europe, M. Balladur amplified his previous promises to work for monetary union by 1997 and said he would ensure that the Franco-German tandem would remain at the heart of France's policy. Under his presidency France would work to streamline the European institutions, making sure that a larger Union would not enable smaller states to gang up on bigger countries. The entry of East European states, but not of Russia or Ukraine, was

ineluctable, he said. France would ensure that their entry would not dilute the present common programmes and social protection.

His presidency would encourage the creation of different "circles of co-operation" involving states that wanted to join in closer union in monetary, defence and other domains. France would also fight to ensure that its language and culture thrived in Europe.

Intoning his manifesto for an hour in a Paris hotel, M. Balladur said that his goal was to build on the record of his 22 months as Prime Minister

to restore hope to a society that had begun to doubt itself after two decades of crisis. France's chronically high unemployment, now at 12.6 per cent, was the root of the crisis and would be his top priority as President.

Like his mainstream rivals, he offered no big tax cuts or radical medicine for creating jobs, but rather a series of measures to cut deficits, curb France's stilling employment taxes and offer guaranteed training schemes for the young. M. Chirac is due to offer his own manifesto this week, nine weeks before the first round of the two-stage election.

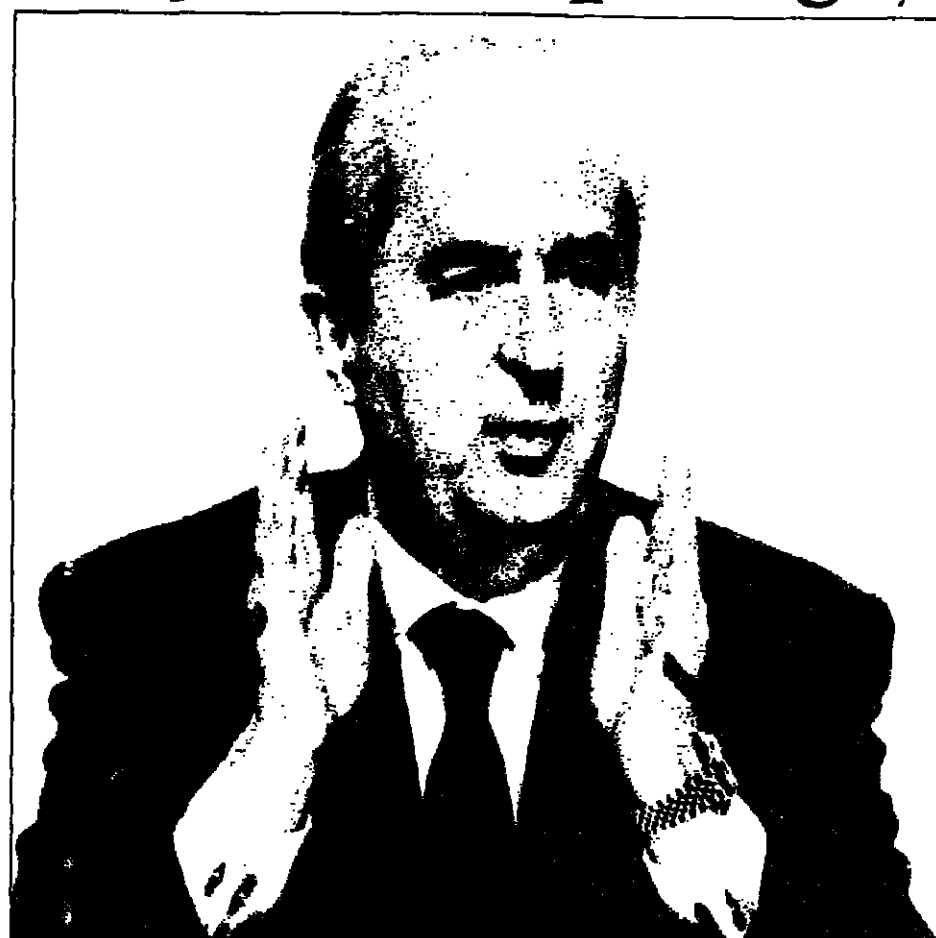
M. Balladur also promised reforms to increase individual liberties and to "reconcile the state and the citizen". He would hold a referendum on the matter within six months of his election. He would also propose that France's seven-year presidential term should be made non-renewable, meaning that he could not stand for re-election in 2002. He would ensure that "the French model of social protection" would be reinforced. He promised to fight to ensure that an enlarged European Union enjoyed similar social guarantees and would not

become a simple free-trade zone.

M. Balladur placed great emphasis on the need to achieve reform through dialogue, which, he said, was "the only modern method". The Prime Minister's passionate belief in consensus, dubbed the "Balladur method", is the main target of the offensive against him by his rivals in the campaign. M. Chirac, 62, has attacked him for "immobilism" and "conservatism" after he scrapped a plan to restrict the access of technical college students to universities. Jacques Toubon, the Culture Minister and a Chirac loyalist, said that the move was an example of M. Balladur's approach of "one step forwards, one step backwards."

M. Jospin who is challenging M. Chirac for second place, said: "This Government does not understand young people. He did the right thing to suspend [the regulation], but he was wrong to propose it in the first place."

Reacting to M. Balladur's manifesto, the Socialist Party charged him with a "lack of political will to get to grips with the real problems that are afflicting society".



Edouard Balladur in Paris where he presented his manifesto for the presidential campaign yesterday. He promised to reinforce French leadership in Europe

Leading article, page 17

## González stops Britons voting in local polls

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THOUSANDS of European Union citizens living in Spain, most of them Britons, are being denied the right to vote in forthcoming municipal elections because the troubled minority Socialist Government, which proposed the European Union legislation, expects them to cast their ballots for the conservative opposition.

The elections will be held on May 28 and the Spanish Cabinet has until February 28 to approve a royal decree. That would ratify a directive giving the vote to EU citizens in the municipalities where they live, pay local taxes and are on the electoral roll.

However, Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, who proposed the directive and who has until next January 1 to adopt the law, has decided to postpone approval of the decree. His popularity is at a record low.

Last Friday, his Cabinet gave approval for citizens of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and The Netherlands to vote in Spain because of bilateral agreements.

"The Spanish Government had a golden opportunity to set an example to the rest of Europe, but realised that the foreigners were not going to vote for them," Ricardo Sánchez Bocanegra, president of

the Federation of Foreigners' Associations, based in Marbella, said yesterday.

"Many foreign residents will feel sad and deceived," he added. "They pay local taxes and suffer the same problems as Spaniards, and were looking forward to voting for the first time. González, who was once the champion of Europe, has violated the Treaty of Maastricht."

The decree giving the vote in municipal elections has been ready for Cabinet approval since December, said Emilio Calvo Blanco, an official at the electoral census office in Madrid. "If it is approved after February 28, the foreigners will not be able to register in time for May 28."

Half the estimated 300,000 foreign residents in Spain are British, but only 10,702 registered for last year's European elections. The conservative Popular Party has protested at the deliberate delay in approving the decree.

"The foreign vote could have been vital in marginal town halls," said John Seth Smith, honorary British Vice-Consul in Benidorm. "Local elections in places like Jávea and Mijas had attracted much more interest than those for distant Strasbourg."

□ **Pact offered:** Señor González offered José María Aznar, the leader of the Popular Party, a pact before last week's parliamentary showdown, but the proposal was spurned, an opposition spokesman said last night.

In secret talks on January 30, Señor González had offered to bring general elections forward by 12 months to next year in exchange for a softening of opposition attacks on the Socialist Government. He fought off an attempt to bring down his administration in Parliament last week and was widely judged to have got the better of his rival in the two-day debate on the state of the nation. (Reuters)



González: royal decree delayed by Cabinet

## Fini to meet Tories on London visit

FROM REUTERS IN ROME

GIANFRANCO FINI, the Italian right-wing leader, said yesterday that he hoped a trip to Britain and France this week would convince Europeans that his political group had cut its links with Fascism.

Signor Fini, whose neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI) was dissolved and succeeded by the National Alliance last month, dismissed a demonstration planned to protest against his visit to London as the work of extreme leftwingers. He will take part in a seminar organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, meet Conservative Party MPs in the House of Commons and have talks with financial and business leaders in the City.

Signor Fini created the National Alliance in the run up to last March's general election. It was part of the Freedom Alliance coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, who was later forced to resign by his coalition

partners after he was put under investigation for alleged corruption.

Asked about reports that some local branches of the National Alliance still displayed busts or photographs of Benito Mussolini, Signor Fini said: "I don't think the problem is in how many branches a photograph of Mussolini remains. My job is to see to it that in every branch of the National Alliance there are no more yearnings [for the past], either implicit or explicit."

The MSI was founded in 1946 by officials from the rump Fascist Republic of Salò that Mussolini led as a Nazi German puppet regime in northern Italy.

Signor Fini, whose popularity is growing, predicted that the National Alliance would win up to 22 per cent of votes in elections later this year. He said Signor Berlusconi was still the group's candidate for Prime Minister.

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# Rival commanders in Chechnia agree partial ceasefire

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN and Chechen military commanders yesterday agreed a ceasefire in Chechnia, the Russian Defence Ministry announced. It added that, although the ceasefire so far applied only to heavy weapons, "the first steps have been taken towards achieving mutual understanding".

Talks are to continue tomorrow, but Russia reportedly has already ordered its troops to stop using their artillery. Arrangements are to be made during the ceasefire for the collection and exchange of the bodies of the many fighters killed on both sides.

It is widely predicted that President Yeltsin, who is to deliver a key speech to the Russian parliament on Thursday, will take the opportunity to announce a new approach to the Chechen conflict as a result of his troops being able

finally to claim a victory in Grozny. One victim of such a new policy would probably be General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, who is widely held responsible for the Russian Army's failures and the high number of casualties it has suffered. Matvei Burlakov, a Deputy Defence Minister and General Grachev's close ally, has just been formally sacked by Mr Yeltsin after being suspended for two months over accusations of corruption and conspiracy to murder a journalist.

The two other latest casualties of the Chechen operation among the Russian high command, however, come from the opposition to the military intervention. It was announced yesterday that General Boris Gromov, another Deputy Defence Minister, had been demoted to the much less

significant position of military adviser to the Foreign Ministry. Another senior officer, General Eduard Vorobyov, has been dismissed the service.

General Gromov has bitterly compared the war in Chechnia to that in Afghanistan, where he commanded the Russian withdrawal. He and other senior officers have pointed out that, in the entire 12 years of the Afghan war, the Soviet Army suffered fewer than 14,000 dead. According to official figures, in two months in Chechnia the army alone, not counting Interior Ministry troops, has lost 1,020 men killed. Russian soldiers on the ground say the real figure is much higher.

According to Tass, yesterday's ceasefire was agreed by General Anatoli Kulikov, the Russian commander in Chechnia, and General Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen chief of staff, at a meeting in the Ingush village of Ordzhonikidzevskaya, near the Chechen border.

The Interfax news agency, however, quoted a "senior Russian officer" as saying that Russian troops, having captured Grozny, would remain in Chechnia until they had occupied the towns of Gudermes, with a population of 30,000, Shali and Argun, the three main centres remaining in the hands of the Chechen administration of General Dzhokhar Dudayev. Shali lies southeast of Grozny and currently houses the Chechen military command.



Gromov: demoted to the Foreign Ministry



Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, left, General John Shalikashvili and the Duke of Kent watch wreaths being laid at a Dresden cemetery yesterday

## Uniforms stir unease in pacifist Dresden

FROM ROGER BOYES IN DRESDEN

It has been a long time since Dresden last saw a British military uniform. No eggs were thrown yesterday at Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, but he was not exactly encouraged to make a walk-about in the streets of the Saxon city that still bears the scars of the Anglo-American bombing and five decades of socialist planning.

"We do not like uniforms of any kind," said Elke Hohnfeld. Fifty years ago, she was cowering in a cellar as the bombers thundered overhead. Her brother helped to load the blackened corpses on to carts and push them to the city cemetery where, yesterday, the field marshal laid a wreath. While the Duke of Kent slipped out of the Taschenberg Palace and around the city virtually unnoticed, Sir Peter, his medals jangling, was a rather more obvious and, for this most pacifist of German cities, provocative sight.

Dresden's pacifism is natu-

ral. It was not only devastatingly bombed, but it has been reminded daily for the past half century of the night of February 13-14 when 12,000 buildings blazed in a fire storm. The charred rubble of the Frauenkirche was allowed to squat for decades like a baroque slagheap in the middle of the city, explained only by a plaque that blamed "imperialist" bombers. If there were uniforms to be seen in the streets, they were of Soviet soldiers, neat tank men from Kirghizia, waiting for trains to and from the Warsaw Pact front line. The resentment towards the Russians, who snatched the best accommodation and who initially looted and raped among the rubble, far surpasses the bitterness felt for the British and Americans.

The re-emergence of uniforms, even in the harmless shape of Sir Peter and his young aide-de-camp, has prompted some reflection in the city. What is the nature of Dresden's pacifism, what is the meaning of the bombardment for Germans today? Did the English commit a war crime? The answer, offered in random encounters with Dresdners, is still yes.

Are the Germans therefore victims of the war, to be pitied in the same way as the inhabitants of Warsaw or the Warsaw Ghetto? Nationalists and pacifists can march some way together in Germany. Pacifists create martyrs out of the Dresden victims; nationalists supply the martyrs' cause and draw conclusions about the way Germany should now behave. Since Germany is a victim of war as well as a perpetrator, it cannot be treated as if it has an "abnormal" history and must be allowed to take its place in the world. That, at any rate, is how the nationally tinged proponents of the new German pacifism are arguing.

Volker Braun, a poet whose father died in Dresden, protests: "Are we living under the

rubble of amnesia that we can propose the deployment of German Tornados and deliver weapons abroad without hearing the echo of terrors past?"

Yesterday, as the British and (the far more modest) American delegations moved around the city from cemetery to church, occasional placards sprouted in the crowd: "Dresden, Bihac, Grozny", read one of the protest banners.

A strand of this school of pacifism is that the 50-year-old tragedy equips the Dresdners in a special way to protest against killing of civilians everywhere. In other words, Dresden is not a German specific, but part of the universal catastrophe of war. That view is more or less acceptable to the German authorities, but it left President Herzog having to square the circle yesterday.

Despite the longing of some of the Dresdners and their

sympathisers, Germany cannot withdraw from military alliances or even future military action abroad. General Klaus Naumann, chief of staff of the Bundeswehr, also uniformed in Dresden, told General John Shalikashvili, US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, yesterday that Bonn was prepared to supply 1,000 military hospital staff and a contingent of Tornado jets in the case of a United Nations withdrawal from Bosnia.

Of course, Sir Peter Inge's brief visit in uniform will not prompt a revolution. But it has brought some thoughts. "It is no longer in us to say we are against war because something bad was done to us," an elderly man said. "No war is the same the last one began in 1933 when Hitler came to power and we have to ask ourselves why we let him. Where does German responsibility end, and British responsibility begin?"

Dresden's sorrow, page 16

## Shevardnadze in Downing St visit

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE President of Georgia and former Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, arrives today for a three-day visit that will underline British support for Georgia's independence and territorial integrity and make clear Western backing for political and economic reform in the turbulent republic.

Mr Shevardnadze was a popular reformist Foreign Minister, who forged close relations with Britain during the key talks leading to German unity. He will be given an effusive welcome, before talks and lunch with John Major, a reception with the Queen and a formal dinner.

Mr Shevardnadze was last here during a visit by President Gorbachev in April 1989, six months before the fall of the Berlin Wall. The long-standing invitation was renewed in November at the Budapest summit of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. He will

visit the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Confederation of British Industry. Britain sees the chance for a rapid expansion of trade, providing economic reform takes hold: last year British exports to Georgia amounted to only £4.2 million, with imports a derisory £128,000.

The main aim of Britain's invitation is to boost Mr Shevardnadze's standing and his attempts to restore normality after a bitter civil war, tensions between ethnic groups and a confrontation with Russia. While at Downing Street, he will sign a joint declaration on friendship and co-operation and another on the promotion and protection of investment in Georgia.

His talks with Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, are also expected to cover Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnia and Nato's plans for expansion in Eastern Europe.

## Court charges 21 Serbs with war crimes

BY EYE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

SERBS who ran the prison camp in Bosnia-Herzegovina from where images of skeletal inmates were broadcast around the world on television at the height of "ethnic cleansing" in 1992, were yesterday charged with crimes against humanity by the former Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

However, only one of the 21 suspects is in custody and can be tried. Dusan Tadic, who is accused of killing and raping civilians inside and outside the Omarska camp in northwestern Bosnia, is being

held in Germany. A law clearing the way for his extradition is expected to pass the Bosnian parliament next month.

The Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, which is not allowed to hold trials in absentia, is not sure where the other 20 accused are. These include one charged with Mr Tadic and Zeljko Meakic, the commander of the Omarska camp, and the only suspect to be charged with genocide. The court documents alleged his complicity in actions aimed at bringing about the destruction of Bosnian Muslims and Croats as people. Mr Meakic is charged with 18 other camp officials with crimes against humanity, violations of the law or customs of war and breaches of the Geneva Convention.

According to the tribunal, Omarska opened in May 1992, after intense bombing of Muslim regions which forced inhabitants to flee their homes. Most of the inmates were Muslim men.

United Nations aid officials said yesterday that Muslim civilians are starving under a food blockade in the Bihac enclave of northwest Bosnia where peacekeepers have monitored the worst violations of a six-week ceasefire. The enclave is under attack by Serbs and Muslim rebels opposed to the Bosnian Government.

## Prague taxi drivers adopt shock tactics

FROM REUTER IN PRAGUE

UNWITTING foreign tourists who refuse to pay the exorbitant fares charged by Prague's unscrupulous taxi drivers may be in for a shock.

Electrically wired seats are the latest device employed by the Czech capital's taxi drivers to persuade passengers to pay their extravagant fares. "Metal wires are stuck into the upholstery and when a button is pushed, the circuit is connected and there's an electric shock," Antonin Zemlicka, of Prague's taxi drivers' guild, said.

Prague, with its medieval architecture, has become eastern Europe's biggest tourist attraction since the collapse of communism in 1989. The city's taxi drivers, who have earned a reputation as the most crooked in the world, prey on foreign visitors, few of whom speak Czech. The number of taxi drivers in Prague has tripled since 1989.

Last year, the Mayor's office carried out a "sting operation" against cheating taxi drivers, getting foreign residents to pose as tourists with no knowledge of the language. Every driver they tested was found guilty of overcharging between four and ten times the legal fare, each was fined 20,000 crowns (£465). The department plans to repeat the operation later this year.

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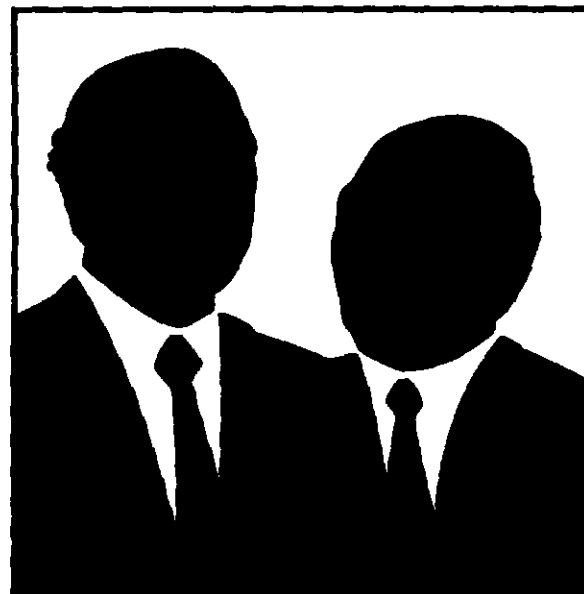
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# Clinton is urged to veto Gingrich Bill as risk to security

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE House of Representatives is expected to approve a Republican Bill this week that the Clinton Administration says would hobble the President's conduct of American foreign policy, end UN peacekeeping operations and foster instability in Europe.

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, and William Perry, the Defence Secretary, issued a warning yesterday that the National Security Revitalisation Act, the foreign policy component of Newt Gingrich's Contract with America, posed such a threat to America's security that they would urge President Clinton to veto it.

"What is at stake is fundamental: the authority of our President to protect the national security and to use every effective option to advance the interests of the United States," the two men declared in a joint New York Times article.

The legislation, which must also be approved by the Senate, reflects America's disenchantment with the UN after botched operations in Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and elsewhere. It would make it harder for American troops to serve under UN command and cut America's basic contribution to UN peacekeeping

costs from roughly a third to a quarter. From that basic contribution it would further deduct the costs of America's participation in UN operations unless — as in the Gulf War — Washington would have mounted the operations anyway out of national self-interest.

Benjamin Gilman, Republican chairman of the House international operations committee, said the bill was designed merely to prevent the Administration "rushing headlong" into further UN peacekeeping operations without first thinking through the implications. Mr Christopher and Mr Perry argued the Bill would "cancel our entire peacekeeping payment". Other allies would follow suit and UN peacekeeping would end. "It would leave the President with an unacceptable option whenever an emergency arose: act alone or do nothing."

The Bill stipulates that Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia should be admitted to Nato "in the near future", provided they remain free-market democracies. Mr Perry and Mr Christopher argued that this would foster complacency in those states and discourage reforms in other former Warsaw Pact nations. The result "could be instability in the very region whose security we seek to bolster."

The Bill would also revive in more modest form President Reagan's "Star Wars" initiative, the programme that consumed \$36 billion (£23 billion) in 12 years before the Clinton Administration killed it in 1993.

□ Warsaw: Malcolm Rifkind, on his first trip to Poland as Defence Secretary, said Russia posed a challenge to European security but the key to the future must remain a policy of co-operation.



Gingrich: criticised for putting security at stake



O. J. Simpson, accompanied by a Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy, points to the front garden of his home in Brentwood as he and jurors toured the sites connected with the murders with which he is charged

## Home tour puts O. J. Simpson in subdued mood

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

O. J. SIMPSON emerged subdued after a brief walk through his house, during which he was forbidden to touch anything, although he appeared relaxed and jovial at first, according to reporters assigned to a high-security jury field trip.

Eight months to the day after being led in handcuffs from his front door to a waiting police car, Mr Simpson returned to his Brentwood estate for two hours on Sunday surrounded by a posse of sheriff's deputies.

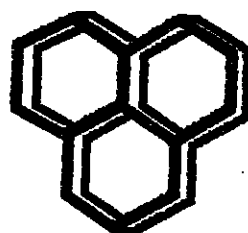
As jurors toured the nearby scene of the murders of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, Mr Simpson had stayed in an unmarked car but, arriving at his own house, a mock Tudor mansion with a tennis court and swimming pool, he got out and chatted in the sunshine with his lawyers.

"He'd just as soon stay there," F. Lee Bailey, a defence lawyer, said as Mr Simpson was driven back to the Men's Central Jail. The

mansion on Rockingham Avenue had been carefully prepared to strike a wholesome note in jurors' minds, with fresh flowers in each room, fires burning in the grates and a bible lying on one table. Judge Lance Ito overruled prosecutors' objections except in the case of a photograph of Mr Simpson's mother on a bedside table. Placed there since the murders, it was removed before the jury tour began.

After three weeks of opening statements and often riveting testimony, the trip gave jurors a chance to get a first-hand look at the now infamous sites linked to the murders. When it was over, both sides were eager to find in the jurors' dispassionate faces any sign that they had been swayed in their favour.

"I think it was very, very good for the jury to be able to see the relationship of each of the locations to each other," Marcia Clark, the Deputy District Attorney, told reporters. Mr Simpson denies the charges.



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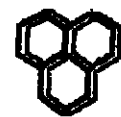
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\*Survey published in The Daily Telegraph, Saturday January 7th 1995. Source: Telesure. Telephone lines open 8am - 8pm Monday to Friday, 9am - 1pm Saturday.

## Timorese tackle terror gangs

FROM REUTER IN JAKARTA

CIVILIANS in East Timor have been fighting mysterious gangs that have terrorised Dili, the capital, rounding up several alleged members and destroying their vehicles, residents said yesterday.

The residents said whole neighbourhoods had joined forces to tackle the squads, which they believe have been hired by Indonesian forces to subdue fresh unrest in the troubled territory. "The local people are fighting back. They are beginning to get organised," one resident said.

Major Laedan Simbolon, an army spokesman, has denied any military links with the so-called Ninja groups. He said they are East Timorese who oppose Indonesia's 1976 annexation of the former Portuguese colony, a year after its invasion of the tiny territory.

At least four Western embassies have expressed concern this month over recent incidents, including the killing of six Timorese by Indonesian forces. During the weekend, Indonesia cast doubts on its earlier claim that the six victims were guerrillas, saying that the soldiers involved in the incident west of the capital might have violated established procedures and may face a court martial.

An official team is in Dili to investigate the incident. Exiles and residents say that the six victims were civilians who were killed in cold blood.

After months of relative restraint, the situation in Timor has deteriorated in recent weeks, with dozens of citizens reported to have been attacked or detained in the raids.

Despite visits by diplomats from several Western embassies, residents say the Ninja gangs have continued to stalk the streets, apparently searching for dissidents. "The strategy is a kind of shock therapy, making us be quiet or be afraid," said one resident, adding that 29 people were now believed to have been abducted.

## Broadway producers prepare for drama

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A GRIPPING real-life drama is unfolding on Broadway which could end with America's most famous theatres going dark this summer.

Fears of a strike are growing as leading producers prepare to challenge outdated work rules imposed by trade unions. Rents and labour costs have been rising on Broadway for years, pushing up the price of stall seats to \$70 (£45) each.

Producers complain that they are forced to pay musicians who never play and hire "curtain-men" for theatres that have no curtain.



Lloyd Webber: ready to take on stagehands

Theatre-owners have previously given in to union demands and there has been no work stoppage since 1973. But the high costs of staging a show have pushed even the legendary Neil Simon off Broadway. It is now dominated by a handful of younger impresarios with deep enough pockets to be able to take on the unions.

The principal protagonists are Andrew Lloyd Webber, composer-producer of hits such as *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, who is putting *Miss Saigon*. These producers are expected to force a showdown with the unions when the stagehands' contract ends in July.

## Mexico's mood of rebellion spreads to voters

By DAVID ADAMS

AS MEXICAN police and soldiers try to crush a 13-month-old peasant uprising in Chiapas, the Government yesterday faced a rebellion of a different kind in the central state of Jalisco, where voters turned out in force against the ruling party of President Zedillo.

The opposition National Action Party claimed a convincing victory in the election for Governor, ending more than 60 years of dominance by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

Hundreds of opposition supporters celebrated in the streets of Guadalajara and Puerto Vallarta, honking horns and singing along to the mariachi



music that is native to Jalisco. Exit polls showed the opposition leading with 54 per cent and the ruling party in second place with 37 per cent. "Finally the people lost their fear of change," Alberto Cardenas, 36, an opposition candidate for Governor, said.

The vote appeared to mark the ruling party's worst defeat in history, and only the fourth time it has lost a governorship. With three more elections to come, the opposition is hoping that Jalisco will be the first of many victories.

Señor Zedillo has been trying to regain political credibility by announcing democratic reforms to clean up the justice system. But nothing would enhance his credibility as a reformer more than accepting defeat in Jalisco.

## Boesak withdrawal from UN post eases President's embarrassment

### Wife stops short of full apology to Mandela

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA yesterday wrote to the South African President, her estranged husband, defending her criticism of the post-apartheid Government, saying that she had never intended to insult him or his administration.

A second embarrassment for President Mandela was partially settled when Allan Boesak withdrew from his appointment as Ambassador to the United Nations. Dr Boesak has been accused of "enriching himself substantially" at the expense of victims of apartheid who were the intended recipients of aid from four Scandinavian donor organisations.

Mrs Mandela was warned last week that she must apologise or resign as Deputy Minister for Arts, Culture, Science and Technology for declaring at the Soweto funeral of a police officer shot by his white colleagues that the Government had betrayed the black masses. She did neither, but in a carefully worded letter wrote: "The impression of the people is that [the Government and the African National Congress] neither care nor know about [their problems]... I was trying to correct that perception. If in doing so I created a

different impression, that was not my intention." She concluded: "I have always been an honest and forthright member of the ANC. I have tried to be equally faithful to the Government, and I mean to remain so."

Eleven members of the ANC Women's League executive have resigned over Mrs Mandela's "dictatorial conduct" as the organisation's president. Mr Mandela failed to persuade the 11 to withdraw their resignations at an unscheduled meeting on Sunday, and they made clear that they would be satisfied only with the election of a new executive.

Dr Boesak, whose decision to withdraw as UN Ambassador was accepted by the President, said that his decision to step down was not "in admission of guilt, but to allow the [investigation] process to be completed unhindered". He added: "I have nothing to fear."

**Bombing trial:** Twenty six members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement yesterday pleaded not guilty to charges including murder and attempted murder at the start of their trial over a series of bombings last April that killed 21 people and wounded more than 200. (AP)



Winnie Mandela has been embroiled in many disputes; the latest one has deeply upset her estranged husband

## South Africa feels for its ageing leader in his distress

By R.W. JOHNSON

WHEN Winnie Mandela was first named as Deputy Minister for Arts and Culture, one journalist politely queried the appointment. Well, President Mandela said, you have to remember that she played an important role in the early days of the struggle.

That not only summed up the President's attitude to government appointments as being more to do with past

service than with present aptitude but also reflected the South African political trait of looking after one's own, whatever their misdemeanours. Thus Chief Mangosuthu Buthe and F.W. de Klerk have both shown a marked reluctance to dismiss subordinates and colleagues accused (or even convicted) of serious wrongdoing. The only crime that really counts is disloyalty to the party.

Such criteria are only too

visible in the latest dispute over Mrs Mandela. In the past few months she has been sued for non-payment for air tickets for a dubious-sounding trip to Angola to pick up diamonds, and is alleged to have been involved in the seizure of furniture and equipment from the Congress of Traditional Leaders. Similarly, Mrs Mandela has used her position to emerge as co-sponsor of a commercial tourist venture with Omar Sharif.

the film star, and has become involved in a dispute over the visit of the Rolling Stones, criticising their arrangements as racist because they are employing a white promoter.

Yet the reason why Mrs Mandela is in trouble now is nothing to do with any of this, but for the intra-party sins of having fallen out with the executive of the ANC Women's League and for having made a speech critical of the Government. Thabo Mbeki,

the First Deputy President, has apparently delivered a resign-or-apologise ultimatum to her on behalf of a desperately distressed President Mandela. Everything — including her explanation in a letter to her estranged husband yesterday — suggests that this is a doomed strategy. The fact is that Mrs Mandela suffered dreadfully as a child as she watched her mother hounded to an early grave by a vindictive mother-in-law. Many believe that this upbringing has left her psychologically prone to sudden and imperious changes of mood.

Further, President Mandela feels he would lose face by acknowledging his wife's errand ways. Most of the country silently acknowledged the truth of those ways some time ago, however, and feel nothing but sympathy for their ageing leader in his agony of distress.

## Algerian theatre director killed

Tunis: The head of Algeria's national theatre was shot dead outside the theatre in the centre of Algiers. Azzedine Medjoubi was the second leading theatrical figure to be killed in less than a year.

Four members of the Armed Islamic Group have been arrested in connection with the killing of Said Mekbel, the editor of Algeria's *Le Matin*. The four men were shown on television admitting being involved in the murder. (Reuters)

## Inside job

New York: Scotland Yard officers have decided that the theft of \$2.5 million in cash from a cabinet in the United Nations compound in Mogadishu last April was done with the help of an "inside agent".

## Strikers die

Dhaka: Three people were killed when police opened fire on striking Bangladeshi textile workers who attacked their station at Ghorasal, 20 miles east of here, with bombs and stones. (AP)

## Taxi murder

Jerusalem: Israeli police are investigating if Arab terrorists were behind the murder of a Jewish taxi driver found stabbed in his vehicle on the way to the West Bank Jewish settlement of Maale Adumin.

## Meningitis toll

Lagos: An outbreak of meningitis in two villages in the Oyo region of south-eastern Nigeria has killed 258 people, the state-owned News Agency of Nigeria said. (Reuters)

## Rail contract

Paris: Bouygues, the French construction group, announced the signing of a \$300 million contract to construct an underground railway in Sydney. (AP)

## Fatal jealousy

Medan, Indonesia: An Indonesian man, 100, who believed his wife, 75, was having an affair cut her throat near here after she refused to have sexual intercourse with him. (AP)

## Peru 'shoots down two Ecuador jets'

Lima: President Fujimori of Peru said that Peruvian anti-aircraft fire had shot down two Ecuadorian warplanes and troops had begun an assault on a key Ecuadorian outpost in a disputed border area in the Amazon.

The Peruvian President said in a television interview late on Sunday that troops used surface-to-air missiles to shoot down an A37 ground-attack plane

and an Israeli-built fighter supporting Ecuadorian forces in the upper Cenepa valley. He also said the army began to attack the Tiwinza post, which Peru claims is the last Ecuadorian stronghold on Peruvian soil. "They are on the attack now," Mr Fujimori said. "They are in close combat... We have evacuated ten wounded. There are no dead. We will have ejected them within the next several

days." In Quito, Ecuador's armed forces confirmed that one warplane had been hit by Peruvian anti-aircraft fire over Cueva de los Tayos, but said it had returned safely to base. Mr Fujimori insisted that Peruvian anti-aircraft fire brought down two planes. The dispute is over a mountainous valley along an unmarked 48-mile stretch of the 1,060-mile border set by a treaty in 1942. (Reuters)

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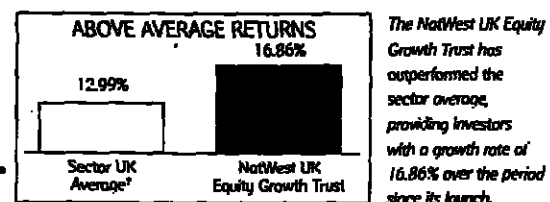
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## India takes St Valentine to heart

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

ONE of the more banal manifestations of upper-class India's disdain for tradition is its adoption of St Valentine's Day. This has produced lusty advertisements in the personal columns of newspapers from "Hot Hindu" and "Masala Man" and a booming industry in goody greetings cards that go against the cultural grain.

Shops are boasting 175 varieties of card this year, ranging from the sickly sentimental and plain affectionate to the vulgar. Hundreds of thousands of flower sellers in the big cities have stocked up, aware that a profitable custom is sweeping the land.

The blame for this intrusion lies with foreign satellite television, which arrived in full force a few years ago after a timid and initially illegal launch in 1991-92. Since then, St Valentine's Day has been plugged enthusiastically over the airwaves. Every expensive hotel in the country is pandering to St Valentine's Day with discotheques, smoochy dance evenings and candle-lit dinners and newspapers are telling their readers about the "legend of St Valentine".

Times FM, Delhi's first pop music station, is connecting the city's lonely men and women with friends and lovers overseas via telephone links. Programmes are being aired for the young to bare their hearts to a mesmerised city. Boys are heard to pine, girls to sob: a far cry from a few years ago when decorum in matters of the heart was still de rigueur.

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Last week we published a list of concerts available in London. Today we print the full list of concerts on offer at regional concert halls, together with two extra London concerts from the London Philharmonic.

Top orchestras in our 20p offer include the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, The Hallé, The Royal Scottish National Orchestra, The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and The BBC National Orchestra of Wales as well as the major orchestras from the Barbican and the South Bank in London. Leading conductors include Yehudi Menuhin, Colin Davis, Jane Glover, Charles Mackerras, Zubin Mehta, Simon Rattle and Carlo Rizzi.

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If you enjoy choral music, you will find Brighton Festival Chorus singing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony or the BBC Welsh Chorus singing Joyful Company of Singers in Cardiff. The Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus sings Walton's Belshazzar's Feast in both Edinburgh and Glasgow and Lincoln Cathedral Choir sings a Schubert mass at the cathedral.

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Symphony Hall (0121 212 3333) \*

Novosibirsk Phil Orch, cond Arnold Katz; soloist Paul Crossley: R Strauss Death and Transfiguration; Shostakovich, Mussorgsky. Feb 15: £19.50-£29.

Warsaw Phil Orch, cond Kazimierz Kord; soloist Konstanty Kulka: Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D; Stravinsky Firebird, Prokofiev. Feb 26: £19.50, £25, £29.

Cologne Radio Symph Orch, cond Hans Vonk; soloist Lars Vogt; Bernd Alois Zimmermann, Beethoven, Bruckner. March 18: £15.50-£29.

Rotterdam Phil Orch, cond Claus Peter Flor; soloist Lynn Harrell: Beethoven, Elgar, Shostakovich. April 4: £19.50, £25, £29.

Royal Liverpool Phil Orch, cond Libor Pesek; soloist Dagmar Peckova: Mozart, Overture Marriage of Figaro and arias; Smetana. April 8: £19.50, £25, £29.

City of Birmingham Symph Orch, cond Valery Gergiev; soloist Alexander Toradze; Berlioz, Ljadov, Kikimura, Prokofiev. April 19: £18, £22.50, £28.50.

**BOURNEMOUTH**

Bournemouth International Centre (01202 297297)

Bournemouth Symph Orch, cond Edward Warren; soloist Natalie Clein. Last Night of the Proms classics. Mar 11: £6-£16.

**BRIGHTON**

The Dome (01273 709 709)

Brighton Phil Orch (BPO), cond Barry Wordsworth; soloist Kathryn Stott; Grieg, Dvorak. Feb 26: £7.50, £10.50, £13.50.

Soloist Richard Durrant; Fauré, Rodrigo, Vivaldi, Mozart. Mar 11: £7.50, £10.50, £13.50.

With Brighton Fest Chorus; Tippett Concerto for Double String Orch; Beethoven Symph No 9. Mar 26: £7.50, £10.50, £13.50.

**BRISTOL**

Colston Hall (0117 922 3686/3682; credit cards 0117 922 3683) \*

Bournemouth Symph Orch; cond and pianist Andrew Litton; Ravel, Shostakovich. Mar 23: £7-£17.50.

Royal Phil Orch, cond Mark Janowski; soloist Radu Lupu; Weber, Beethoven, Schumann. Mar 29: £7-£17.50.

Bournemouth Sinfonietta, cond and pianist Stephen Kovacevich; Wagner, Mozart, Brahms. April 12: £6-£15.

Bournemouth Symph Orch, cond Antonio de Almeida; soloist Ofrat Harmon; Prokofiev, Lalo, Rimsky-Korsakov. May 10: £7-£17.50.

St George's Brandon Hill (0117 923 0359) \*

Britten Quartet; Purcell, Beethoven, Rasoumovsky, Dvorak. Mar 24: £6, £8, £10.

Bernard Roberts Trio; Schubert. Mar 30: £3.

Bernard Roberts (piano); Schubert. Mar 31: £5, £7, £9.

**CARDIFF**

St David's Hall (01222 371236/235900) \*

BBC NOW, cond Ion Marin; soloist Simon Preston; Ravel, Poulenc, Berlioz Symphonie fantastique; Feb 18.

Cond Tadaaki Otaka; soloist Emanuel Ax; Brahms Piano Concerto No 2; Strauss Don Quixote; Feb 25.

Cond Mark Wigglesworth; soloist Lars Vogt; Hadyn, Schubert, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 2; Mozart. Mar 10.

With BBC Welsh Chorus, cond Richard Hickox; soloists Lynne Dawson, Jean Rigby, John Ainsley; Beethoven, Britten. April 1.

All events, £3.50-£18.50.

**CARLISLE**

The Sands Centre (01228 25222) \*

Warsaw Phil Orch, cond Kazimierz Kord; soloist Yonty Solomon; Mahler, Chopin, Prokofiev. Mar 11: £14.50, £16, £17.

**EDINBURGH**

Usher Hall (0131 228 1155) \*

Royal Scottish Nat Orch

Orchestra of Scottish Opera, cond Martin Mery; soloists Sidwell Hartman, Mark Holland, Nicola Frenkel-Waite; Grand Opera Gala. Mar 4: £5.50-£18.50.

RSNO, cond Martin Yates; soloists John Barrowman, Ethan Freeman, Shona Lindsay and Ria Jones; Gala evening. Mar 5: £8.50-£15.

Maria Ewing acc Roger Vignoles; Schubert, Strauss and Debussy. Mar 7: £15-£30.

RSNO, cond Walter Weller; soloist Anne Murray; Elgar, Berlioz, Respighi. Mar 25: £6-£19.

Stuttgart Phil Orch, cond Carlos Kalmar; soloist Mikhail Rudy; Dvorak, Ravel, Sibelius. Mar 28: £10.50-£21.

**HALIFAX**

Victoria Theatre (01422 351158) \*

Bournemouth Symph Orch, cond Richard Hickox; soloist Tasmin Little; Britten Young Person's Guide, Bruch Violin Concerto No 1, Dvorak New World. Mar 4: £6, £8.50.

Stuttgart Phil Orch, cond Carlos Kalmar; soloist Claire Daniels; Rossini, Mozart, Mahler Symph No 4 in G. April 1: £6, £8.50.

BBC Phil Orch, cond Jan Pascal Tortelier; soloist Jean-Yves Thibaudet; Dvorak, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 2 in B Flat Op 19, Sibelius. April 29: £6, £8.50.

**HUDDERSFIELD**

Town Hall (01484 43 08 08)

Northern Ballet Theatre Concert Orch, cond John Pryce-Jones; soloist Martin Roscoe; Rossini, Grieg, Massenet, Delibes, Chabrier. Mar 2: £6-£15.

**IPSWICH**

Regent Theatre (01473 281480) \*

Warsaw Phil, cond Kazimierz Kord; soloist Yonty Solomon; Stravinsky Firebird, Chopin, Beethoven Symph No 5. Mar 3: £12.

**LONDON**

St Mary's Parish Church (01582 21628)

English Sinfonia, cond Philip Ellis; soloist John Wallace; Bach, Copland, Warlock, Boccherini. April 22: £6, £8, £9.

**MANCHESTER**

Concert Tickets Token 7

Concert Tickets Token 7

### CRAWLEY

The Hawth (01293 553636) \*

Royal Phil Orch, cond Stefan Sanderling; Beethoven Egmont Overture, Violin Concerto, Symph No 2. Mar 19: £12.50, £14.50.

Academy of St Martin in the Fields, cond Kenneth Sillito; soloist Allison Eldredge; Mozart, Haydn, Boccherini, Mozart. April 29: £11, £12.50.

**DARLINGTON**

Civic Theatre (01325 486555) \*

Manchester Camerata; Handel, Bach, Vivaldi. Mar 26: £12.50.

**GLASGOW**

Royal Concert Hall (0141 227 5511) \*

Royal Scottish Nat Orch (RSNO), cond Vernon Handley; soloists Joaquín Achúcarro, John Connell and RSNO chorus; Tippett, Falla, Walton. Feb 25: £6-£19.

Orchestra of Scottish Opera, cond Martin Mery; soloists Sidwell Hartman, Mark Holland, Nicola Frenkel-Waite; Grand Opera Gala. Mar 4: £5.50-£18.50.

RSNO, cond Martin Yates; soloists John Barrowman, Ethan Freeman, Shona Lindsay and Ria Jones; Gala evening. Mar 5: £8.50-£15.

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**LEICESTER**

De Montfort Hall (0116 233 3111) \*

Novosibirsk Phil Orch, cond Arnold Katz; soloist Paul Crossley; Strauss Death and Transfiguration, Prokofiev, Rachmaninov. Feb 17: £4-£12.

Warsaw Phil Orch, cond Kazimierz Kord; soloist Yonty Solomon; Szymanowski, Chopin, Beethoven. Mar 8: £4-£12.

European Community Chamber Orch, cond Eivind Aadland; soloist Barry Tuckwell; Haydn, Mozart, Wolf. Mar 26: £4-£12.

Royal Phil Orch, cond Jane Glover; soloist Christine Brewer; Schoenberg Verklarte Nacht, Strauss, Mozart Symph No 41 Jupiter. April 11: £4-£12.

**LIVERPOOL**

Anglican Cathedral (0151 709 3789)

Royal Liverpool Phil, cond Carlo Rizzi; soloist Marco Rizzi; Respighi Concerto Gregoriano, Schumann. Mar 8.

Cond Mark Elder; Beethoven Symph No 5, Wagner, Messiah L'Ascension. Mar 11.

Cond James Judd; soloist Isabelle van Keulen; Glass Violin Concerto, Brahms. Mar 29.

All events: £7, £10, £13.

**LONDON**

Royal Festival Hall (0171 928 8800) \*

The London Philharmonic, cond Zubin Mehta; soloist Bryn Terfel; Wagner, Mahler, Webern. Feb 26: £13-£30.

The London Philharmonic, cond Franz Welser-Moest; soloist Jeanne Christee; Shostakovich Violin Concerto No 1. Mar 5: £13-£30.

**LUTON**

St Mary's Parish Church (01582 21628)

English Sinfonia, cond Philip Ellis; soloist John Wallace; Bach, Copland, Warlock, Boccherini. April 22: £6, £8, £9.

**MANCHESTER**

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Chopin, Prokofiev. Mar 12: £14.50-£17.50.

Stuttgart Phil Orch, cond Carlos Kalmar; soloist Barbara Bonney; Mozart, Mahler Symph No 6. Mar 26: £14.50-£16.50.

**GLASGOW**

Royal Concert Hall (0141 227 5511) \*

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**LUTON**

St Mary's Parish Church (01582 21628)

English Sinfonia, cond Philip Ellis; soloist John Wallace; Bach, Copland, Warlock, Boccherini. April 22: £6, £8, £9.

**MANCHESTER**

Concert Tickets Token 7

Budapest Symph Orch, cond Tamas Vassary; soloist Lioba Prunyi; Britten, Beethoven, Brahms. May 16: £12.

**LEEDS**

Town Hall (0113 241 6902/245 5505)

Novosibirsk Phil Orch, cond Arnold Katz; soloist Anatoli Safiulin; Prokofiev, Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky. Feb 18: £6.50-£15.50.

**LEICESTER**

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**MANCHESTER**

Concert Tickets Token 7

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Free Trade Hall (0161 834 1712) \*

BBC Phil, cond Vassily Sinaisky; soloists Sophia Larson, Paul Elting and Arthur Korn; Night of Wagner. Feb 18: £3-£16.

Hallé Orch, cond John Currie; soloists Jennifer Barn, Jamie MacDougall, Robert Hayward; Haydn's Creation. Feb 19: £3-£19.50.

Hallé Orch, cond Ole Schmidt; soloist Franco Gullit; Gilbert, Beethoven Violin Concerto. Feb 23: £3-£19.50.

Manchester Camerata, cond Guido Johannes Rumstadt; soloist Dame Moura Lympany; Beethoven, Mozart Piano Concerto No 21. Prokofiev. Mar 4: £5.50-£15.50.

Hallé Orch, cond Kent Nagano; soloists Paul Silverthorne, Yingbin Xie, Janet Simpson; Brahms, Berlioz Harold in Italy. Mar 5: £3-£19.50.

Hallé Orch, cond Kent Nagano; soloist Yefim Bronfman; Elgar, Bartok Piano Concerto No 2, Vaughan Williams. Mar 9: £3-£19.50.

Manchester Camerata, cond Nicholas Kraemer; soloist Michala Petri; Handel, Sammartini, Corelli, Vivaldi and Telemann. April 1: £3.50-£15.50.

City of London Sinfonia.

**NOTTINGHAM**

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The Royal Navy is to relax its rules on eyesight and allow those on the bridge to use contact lenses or glasses, says Dr Thomas Stuttford

## Sailors who need help to see the signal

THE LOSS of an eye did not inhibit Nelson's career in the Royal Navy, but by the standards of fitness that have prevailed for nearly two centuries, the eyesight of those who keep watch on the bridges of warships has had to be faultless.

The Navy has recently become concerned that no sooner does it train officers to the point where, aged about 35 or 40, they are ready to be a commander on a state-of-the-art warship than the doctors reject them on the ground of poor vision. So the Navy has decided to relax its time-honoured rules.

Bottle-thick spectacles will not be allowed, but contact lenses and glasses strong enough to compensate for a modest loss of sight will be. However,

contact lenses will not be acceptable for air crew or submariners, and cannot be worn under gas masks.

The disappointing news for those operating the excimer laser centres which have been opening recently is that the Navy has let it be known that if any officers attend for laser treatment to correct myopia (short sight), it "is unlikely to help their career".

Mr John Grindle, the ophthalmic surgeon who runs the New Image Laser Centre in the City of London, says: "The decision of the British Navy is remark-

able. In the Australian Navy photorefractive keratectomy, laser treatment, is allowed. In the American Marines it is even acceptable in their marine special forces unit."

The shape of the eye determines how well the light rays are focused on the retina and hence how good a person's sight is. If the eye is longer than usual, or the cornea (the window of the eye) is too curved, instead of being focused on the retina the rays of light will converge to a



point just in front of it, so that the patient is short-sighted. When looking at a distant object — in former times possibly a sail or smoke on the horizon — a short-sighted watch-keeper would either not see it at all, or detail would be blurred.

The Russians tried radial keratotomy to try to correct a too curved cornea through surgery. In this operation radial cuts were made across the eye so that the curvature of the

cornea was altered. If the cuts were too shallow the eyesight was little improved; if too deep, the eyeball could burst.

More recently American ophthalmologists, exploiting a British invention, have utilised laser therapy to shave a predetermined layer off the front of the cornea. This subtly alters its shape so that the light rays converge on the retina, and distance vision is sharpened.

Mr Grindle says that caution is the name of the game in laser therapy. He adds that criticism has arisen when results have been disappointing, usually

because of faulty selection of patients. Mr Grindle would have rejected Nelson, for instance: any loss of vision in one eye, other than from short sight, is an excluding factor. Patients with collagen diseases including rheumatoid arthritis and lupus are not suitable, nor are those who are diabetic or who have any retinal disease. Patients with severe short sight are not accepted, but the degree of severity allowed depends on the laser machine available.

One eye at a time is treated, under local anaesthetic. There is some discomfort for the first 24 hours, and television and reading are barred. Vision improves over the next three months, when a decision is made as to the optimum time for treating the second eye.

## Whose notes are they anyway?

Do patients want to know what their doctor has written about them?

Dr Trisha Greenhalgh investigates

On November 1, 1991, patients became legally entitled to see their medical casenotes under the Access to Health Records Act (1990).

Computer-held medical information, in common with personal data held on computer for any other purpose, has been available to patients for more than ten years under the Data Protection Act (1984). To my surprise, none of my patients has ever availed themselves of the right to browse through their casenotes or look over my shoulder at the computer screen during a consultation. I recently asked some of them why not.

"Good grief, doctor, your notes are none of my business," said one woman, as if I had offered her a peek at my personal diary.

In fact, although I refer to Mrs Smith's NHS medical record as her notes and she refers to the same record as my notes, they are written on government stationery and are, strictly speaking, the property of the Secretary of State. But even if Mrs Smith were a private patient, she would have exactly the same right of access to her medical record as she would to a set of NHS casenotes. Conversely, NHS doctors who routinely keep a second set of "private" notes on potentially litigious patients are wasting their time.

Another patient said to me: "For one thing, I can't read your writing, and for another, I wouldn't understand the terminology." Doctors are, in fact, legally obliged to decipher illegible prose and offer a reasonable explanation of medical jargon. In theory, the doctor could invoke the "therapeutic privilege" clause and withhold information which might be detrimental to the patient's health. In practice, a refusal is likely to generate more worry than the content. These days, GPs tend to write "sore throat" rather than

"pharyngitis" and "period pains" rather than "dysmenorrhoea", but abbreviations such as UTI (urinary tract infection), DNR (do not resuscitate) or VMI (very much improved) remain ubiquitous. Some are ambiguous — for example, PID (pelvic inflammatory disease) or prolapsed intervertebral disc or NAD (nothing abnormal detected or not actually done).

A further source of confusion is the use of Latin, which ceased to be a requirement for medical school a generation ago and persists in medical circles largely to maintain professional mystique. The expression "review SOS" does not mean that the patient should be seen again urgently, but only *si id opus sit* — if symptoms persist.

Many people fear that they might discover "rude comments" in their casenotes. Traditionally doctors' remarks about their patients have ranged from the paternalistic to the frankly pejorative. The term "grossly obese", for example, may not be inaccurate but it is certainly offensive and imprecise.

While most people seem singularly uninterested in their own casenotes, I am often asked to view the medical record of a third party. Parents have no right to see the casenotes of a child over 16 and, more contentiously, they may only see the record of a younger child if the child has consented or, if in the doctor's opinion disclosure would be in the child's best interests. Similar rules apply to spouses, elderly relatives, or friends. Removing the secrecy surrounding medical casenotes has been rather like taking down a fence to reveal workmen digging a hole in the road. An inquisitive minority have stared to their satisfaction but the majority have neither the time nor the inclination to take a closer look.

● Dr Greenhalgh is a North London GP.

## Surgery's brave new world



Nigel Hawkes reports on operations by Michael Harrison (above) on the unborn child

Until recently, the womb was a private place, beyond the reach of the surgeon's knife. The processes that went on there could sometimes go awry, without much prospect of early detection, and no hope at all of cure. The result was a stillbirth, or a child born alive but with congenital abnormalities, sometimes fatal.

A revolution in foetal surgery is now changing all that. Not only can abnormalities be detected early in pregnancy, but increasingly surgeons are developing techniques to put them right. Despite its difficulties, foetal surgery offers advantages that make it very attractive — and throws up dilemmas that will keep ethical committees awake at night.

Consider this. A British plastic surgeon, Anthony Rowsell of Guy's Hospital in London, has developed techniques for growing rat limbs in culture. According to a *Horizon* documentary to be broadcast tonight (BBC2, 9.30pm), he has managed to grow such limbs for three days, equivalent to a month of human gestation.

The method could provide the basis for foetal limb transplants to embryos which for some reason have failed to develop arms or legs of their own. These limbs would have to be supplied from aborted foetuses. "The only source of human foetal organs is the human foetus," says Mr Rowsell. "It would be necessary to harvest the foetal organs at a relatively young gestational age and culture them in an appropriate medium until they were the correct size and maturity to be suitable for transplantation."

Even more extraordinary, a California surgeon, Michael Harrison of the University of California at San Francisco, has shown that animal cells can be transplanted between species without rejection if it is done before the immune system has fully developed — about 16 weeks in human beings. The result is a chimera, a creature that carries two types of cells within its body in perfect harmony.

The implications for organ transplantation could be huge. Suppose that a human foetus had been injected at an early stage with cells from the liver of a pig embryo. The baby would, of course, be human, but among its cells, and not



Ben Crosland being removed from the womb at 24 weeks: his chest was opened up to expose and excise a tumour, then he was sewn up and replaced



Jill Crosland and Ben: "Not a day goes by that I don't think what a miracle his life is"

recognised as foreign, would be pig cells. This would mean that later, if the human heart, kidney or liver failed, it should be possible to transplant the pig's organ without any problems of rejection.

Foetal surgery has huge attractions for plastic surgeons, because any incisions made early enough in the life of the foetus heal without scarring. Already, as *Horizon* discloses, this has been used by a leading Mexican plastic surgeon, Professor Fernando

Ortiz Monasterio, to repair a cleft lip in the womb. The operation was a success — the baby, alas, died several months after being born.

Professor Monasterio does not know the cause of death — no post mortem was conducted — but defends the use of a risky, experimental form of surgery to correct a condition that could have waited until after birth. The mother had told him that if her baby could not be born perfect, she would opt for a termination.

Premature labour is one of the major obstacles to foetal surgery. Jill Crosland, an American mother of two healthy children, had her third child operated on in the womb by Mr Harrison when scans showed that it had developed a benign tumour that, if left untouched, would prevent the proper development of the lungs, and kill the baby.

Mr Harrison and his colleague Professor Scott Adzick, who had carried out 1,800 foetal operations on animals

before attempting them in human patients, successfully removed the tumour. First the uterus was exposed, then opened up carefully to expose the baby, without damaging the placenta. It was taken from the womb, the lump removed, and then replaced with a warm saline solution to replace lost amniotic fluid to complete its allotted nine months of gestation.

To prevent Mrs Crosland giving birth prematurely she was given powerful drugs, but even so Benjamin made his appearance ten weeks early. He was, however, a fit and healthy baby who is now growing up normally.

"There's not a day goes by that I don't think what a miracle his life is," says Mrs Crosland. But Mr Harrison admits that not every operation has such a happy outcome: less than half the babies survive.

"It often doesn't work and it's agonising, absolutely agonising, for those families," he admits. "But they won't let you stop. All the committees and all the do-gooders and everybody say, hey, it's too dangerous and you can't do anything more, but those who went through it, those who suffered through it, won't let us stop."

Much more problematical as an ethical issue is the question of foetal limb banks, and cross-species transplantation. For a child to be born without a limb is a tremendous handicap in life, but the idea of preventing this by harvesting spare limbs from abortions, and growing them in culture, is one that generates a shudder. It would be strange, to put it no stronger, to grow up with a limb that was not one's own.

In Stockholm, Dr Magnus Westgren of Huddinge Hospital has already attempted to use cells from aborted foetuses to correct a congenital abnormality of the blood, thalassemia. From six abortions, he gathered enough cells for a single transplant, separated them carefully, stored them in liquid nitrogen, then inserted them with a needle into the abdomen of a sick foetus.

His hope was that if the cells took, the baby would be born as a chimera, possessing both its own defective cells and normal ones from the transplant. The first attempt failed, but he intends to continue trying at higher doses. "This could be a cure for thalassemia and metabolic disorders," he says. "It could help many children."

Transplanting animal cells into human foetuses is an even more disturbing prospect. Mr Harrison isn't sure quite how it would work. "If we were going to use pigs, which is what we've started working on, would you need the actual pig — that is, is it to the individual pig that you develop tolerance across species, or is it to 'pigness'?"

"Now if we were lucky, and it's to pigness, then you've got it made, everybody who ever wanted to could be set up for a transplant from a pig for any organ wanted after birth. If it's to an individual pig, you can see the logistics get much more complicated."

The ethics are, if anything, even more complicated. "These issues are really too big for individual surgeons to address themselves," says Professor Charles Rodeck of University College and Middlesex School of Medicine in London. "We really do need guidance."

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# If you were reading this in our new Club Europe



Romance? No, just sentimentality

## I'm too old to be a Valentine

WE ARE all familiar with the moan that children in these modern wicked days are cruelly robbed of their childhood, but I am no less disturbed — and considerably more struck — by the wilful denial of the state of adulthood.

No one, however distinguished, likes to own up to being "grown up", and that's meant to be engaging. We all live now in a permanent feverish adolescence. You could argue that it's a reaction to a truncated childhood: those of us whose years qualify us for dignified adulthood are the first generation of children to be born in an age of mass divorce. And I can't help thinking that having parents who were themselves young in the Sixties is a disadvantage in the growing-up stakes: how can they let their children relish adulthood if they themselves still cling to the vain notion of their perpetual youth?

Whatever the reasons, it's the effect that troubles me. Popular culture is proud to be immature. It's sniggering, prurient and sex-obsessed. And it's everywhere.

Take Valentine's Day: you may have noticed that is no longer just the teen magazines that get themselves worked up over February 14. No one over the age of 23 should even be noticing. It's not for adults. It is a

quintessentially adolescent date on the calendar. Adolescence is, among other things, about courtship rituals, about who fancies whom and what a thrill it all is: Valentine's Day is simply a symbol of all this.

What I can't see is why we are supposed to continue with it all once the teasing element has been taken out. When you're young you send cards to people who don't know that you might be interested: thus they serve a purpose.

Quite what the point is of sending a card you sign, and more over that you send to someone with whom you live and have children, is beyond me. But even I have had to give in: the propaganda is just too much.

What it's about is romance, of course. Look, I've got nothing against people loving one another, but I cannot stand all that sentimentalised stuff. I distrust sentimentality. It's what people who can't muster emotions have. And I distrust all this emphasis on Valentine's Day for the same sort of reason. I think it is just a fancy way of granting an amnesty to inconsiderate husbands. After all, it's much easier to send a bunch of long-stemmed roses once a year than it is to wash up after you the other 364.



NIGELLA LAWSON

## Sloppy thinking, Oxford

NEWS that Oxford University is to scrap its entrance exam is particularly depressing, if only because it gives a fresh opportunity for those looking for an excuse — as if there needed to be one — to moan about yet another instance of the creeping political correctness that is apparently eroding our national life.

The fact is, Oxford's wrong to do it, even if the motive is the right one. Wanting to give as wide a selection of the population as possible the chance of a place at Oxford is fine enough. Why should we want it to be otherwise?

But as long as state education means more or less no education then increasing intake from the public sector is going to be difficult. But it is not suspect to want to do so, and it doesn't have to mean that academic standards are no longer cherished. As ever, everyone seems to confuse intelligence with the possession of a well-stocked brain.

A poor education may not help you acquire the second but neither does it prevent your having the first. The question

Oxford University should be posing itself is how best to distinguish between the two. And getting rid of the entrance exam is not the way.

A-level results show what you have learnt, not what kind of a mind you have. The trouble with relying on interviews is that articulacy is not necessarily a measure of intelligence. It is, especially at 18, more a sign of confidence than anything else, and, incidentally, one of the great benefits of a public school education.

The whole point of the Oxford entrance exam was that it was designed to test how you thought rather than to check up on what you knew. Or some of it was. By all means get rid of exams which merely extend the remit of A-level papers, with questions on Schiller's early plays or Molière as a satirist or what have you, but keep the general paper. Why does it have to be all or nothing?

You don't need to know a lot to answer the questions "Is revenge ever justified?" "What makes a good joke?" or "Is this a question?" You just need to be able to think.

# Love just within the law

When the age of consent was lowered 25 years ago, Paul and Jennifer Brown were the first to tie the knot. Tom Rhodes reports

It has been a long time since Paul and Jennifer Brown last discussed their wedding day, but beneath the surface the memory is always there.

Twenty-five years ago their marriage was a *cause célèbre* when they became the first couple to wed after the age of consent was lowered in Britain. He was a strapping 20-year-old who had just left the Merchant Navy, she a 19-year-old clerical assistant in a firm of lawyers.

As we talk on the eve of St Valentine in the sitting room of their American home at Commack, Long Island, it is as though it were yesterday.

On January 1, 1970, Paul and his future brother-in-law, John Fincher, had borrowed a car and driven from Essex to London to wait on the steps of the Diocesan Registrar in Westminster, the only office in the country which could grant the new marriage licence.

"I remember we were the only people there when the doors opened at 8.30am and the whole thing took a while because the man inside didn't have the proper forms printed and hadn't even heard of the new law," said Paul, who then hurried back to Leigh-on-Sea, supped two pints of beer in the local pub and prepared himself at the altar at St Michael and All Angels to receive his bride.

Jeni, as she likes to be known, interrupted: "We were late starting. The service didn't begin until 3pm, it was snowing outside and I was extremely nervous."

They had met four years previously at a party in Ilford. She was seeing a friend of Paul's at the time and he was always away with the merchant fleet travelling for months at a time to the Gulf and India, Thailand and Japan, America and Venezuela.

While on shore leave two years later, Paul had proposed and the two were engaged. But Paul's parents disapproved. Finally the couple accepted the advice of the parish priest and decided to take advantage of a new law lowering the age at which you could marry without parental consent from 21 to 18.

When we opened the door for a lot of people, I guess," says Jeni, a petite brunette and mother of two. "I would not recommend it for everyone. We were broke to start but it was true love. I don't think many others could have reached the same level of maturity that we had when we married."

To show how impoverished they were, Paul told a story about their first landlady, an evangelical who believed they were faithless individuals and so increased the weekly rent by 25p to £7 a week.

Jeni was still earning a paltry sum and Paul had just lost his job in a polythene factory. The increase forced Paul to go before a rent tribunal. He won a four-month reprieve and, weeks later, was offered a lowly position with Plessey, the electrical and defence manufacturing company.

After a period of evening classes



The Browns on their wedding day, after Paul had returned from his dash to get a certificate



Paul today, and Jeni with Claire, right: "We both wanted the good life for us and our children."

and various moves around the country to Weston-super-Mare and to Templecombe, Paul became the sub-contracts manager for the company's naval systems division. Nearly 14 years ago the firm asked him to consider a move to the

United States. "I often ask myself what would have happened had I stayed in Britain," he said. "And I think the answer is that my children would have spent more time with their grandparents but I would not have gained the position

that I have managed to do over here."

And indeed his achievements are worthy of the American Dream. At 45, Paul is a rotund vice-president of defence procurement for Siemens, earning thousands of dollars

a week. The family has three cars, countless televisions and telephones. He is in the process of buying a new fishing sloop and is spending large sums to put his eldest daughter, Claire, 18, through William and Mary College, the respected Virginian university at Williamsburg.

Their second daughter Lisa, 13, has not shown the academic ability that her parents might have liked, but they are convinced her talent as a dancer combined with an obsession with Hollywood and Broadway will lead to the stage and silver screen.

Both have received green cards and will apply for American citizenship at their earliest opportunity in 1997. Jeni says she is not certain whether they will remain in the United States forever, but Paul is sure they will.

"It's the longest I have stayed anywhere in the world," he said. "I feel settled here and I don't want to go back to England and leave my children 3,000 miles away."

Their detached house in Commack is typically suburban American with well-manicured lawns both at the front and back. The deep pile carpets are not to everyone's taste but there is a sense of comfort which seeps up the stairs to the bedrooms. The Browns are by no means ostentatious but they would like people to know that their humble beginnings have produced something of worth.

Two of the new adults, Paul Brown and Jennifer Fincher, celebrated the arrival of the 'seventies yesterday by getting married.

Paul, a 20-year-old mechanic, and Jennifer, 19-year-old secretary, posed for a picture for the national album—they were

They joke about an impending divorce which will come after Jeni has won her umpteenth trophy in the local bowling league or when Paul has spent too long fishing with his friend Joe. "Over here people row and get divorced," said Jeni. "Lisa thinks that because we have the occasional argument we will do the same. People give up much too early on marriage."

Clearly, there are few regrets in the Brown household. The couple say they have few American friends but are happy to be a self-contained family. "I wish I could have had a formal training, perhaps as a nurse, but then I think we have been very lucky. I suppose we have been fortunate in aiming for the same thing," said Jeni. "We both wanted the good life for us and our children and we have worked very hard for it."

Gone are the days when they would save every penny to buy each other a St Valentine's Day card. Today, Paul will be away on business in New Jersey for two days and Jeni will be spending the evening alone. "I expect he will send me a card before he leaves. We've been doing that since we were teenagers," she said.

The transcendently meditating Natural Law Party plans an enlarged university. Hoping to see some yogic flying, Giles Coren visited its headquarters

## Ready for take-off at Mentmore

After three hours waiting, and assuming that the flight had merely been delayed, I dreaded being told that it had been cancelled altogether.

I was at Mentmore Towers, present headquarters of the Maharishi University of Natural Law, and spiritual home of the Natural Law Party, which polled 60,000 votes at the last general election. Its manifesto promised an end to crime, illness and poverty by affecting the nation's transcendental consciousness through "yogic flying".

The announcement last week that the Maharishi Foundation had acquired a former US airbase at Bentworth, Suffolk, where it plans to reestablish its university with accommodation for 4,000 students, has reawakened interest in the cause, and I had arrived for what I hoped would be not only an explanation of the party's educational proposals, but also a show of aerial prowess.

Mentmore looms above the trees from more than a mile away as you approach the grounds of the house. Bought from Lord Rosebery in 1978 for £200,000 (the local pub is still called the Rosebery Arms — with no plan as yet to change it to the Yogi Arms), it is a vast Victorian pile that would do credit to the opening credits of a gothic horror film.

The penumbrous atmosphere

continues inside. The building was empty when the foundation acquired it. Rosebery having already sold off all the furniture. Nothing much seems to have been added since then, and building repairs are still going on. I was shown round by the director of external relations, Guy Hatchard, a former parliamentary candidate. There were 40 people living at Mentmore, he told me, all of them single men, mostly engaged on a long-term course of transcendental meditation (TM).

I saw no one. Just empty rooms around a central atrium, largely unfurnished but for pictures of the Maharishi, and one of the Queen and Prince Philip in the main hall. The royal picture, they told me, was to remind visitors that "we are not some band of revolutionaries. We don't want to overthrow society — just make it better."

The way to this improvement is through meditation. If 1 per cent of the population do it simultaneously, then the effect is felt by the whole community — crime rates fall, health improves, prosperity increases. The problem, of course, is that 1 per cent of the community does not do it. Which is where the flying comes in. Through the practice of the "Siddhi" technique the

transcendental consciousness is "enlivened" and the meditator is able to take off from the ground. So potent is this practice that only "the square root of 1 per cent of the community" need practice it to arrive at a perceptible improvement.

These are admirable ends, and the fact that the manifesto of the Natural Law Party made absurdly ambitious claims which no one believed hardly sets it apart from the other parties. Nor should the fact that its leader, Dr Geoffrey Clements, talks through an unsettling half-smile be held against him. Tony Blair does it too.

But a university? Given that the group is perceived as a cult (wrongly, in fact, for faith is not a requirement, and many of them practise their own religions inde-

pendently) there could easily be accusations of brainwashing.

In a room surrounded with fake bookshelves and concealed doors I was joined by Dr Hatchard and Dr Clements, as well as David Lines,

director of TM, and Nigel Kahn, the press officer, a tweedy, moustachioed man who occasionally broke into the conversation to offer a calm and user-friendly gloss to the enthusiasms of his colleagues.

"The education system isn't working," he explained. "If it was, then the world would be a wonderful place." Can't argue with that. Nor can you dispute Dr Hatchard's assertion that "students often find themselves questioning their motivations, and wondering why they are at university at all. Furthermore, the stress of exams and essay writing leads to hypertension and affects their performance."

The solution to this, of course, is meditation. "All the students will have a 20-minute session, involving

yogic flying, every morning," said David Lines. The meditation ties into the Principle of Least Action — whereby maximum accomplishment is attained through minimum effort on the basis of infinite creativity.

In short, transcendental meditation makes the students cleverer, so they can get away with less work. They will surely flock to Suffolk in their thousands.

Education has prioritised objective knowledge at the expense of subjectivity," said Dr Hatchard. "Degrees are all very well, but our students will arrive at a knowledge of their own self. GPs may be good at healing other people, but they are among the shortest lived of all professions. Politicians organise the state but cannot organise their personal lives. Their expertise does not function subjectively at all."

Just as things looked to be getting too objective, a number of huge course charts were produced from nowhere and spread on the table between us. The university offers the normal range of academic subjects, and hopes to collaborate with other universities so as to offer "accredited" degrees, and entitle its

students to government grants. The charts illustrate the unique benefits that will be offered at Bentworth.

"At any stage in a student's career," said Dr Hatchard, "the can look to the chart and see how his studies relate to himself and the world." Each chart shows how TM gives the subject an identification with the "unified field of all natural laws". The business studies chart, for example, takes as its ultimate goal "the end of world poverty". So from a state of desperation about a last-minute essay crisis, a student is suddenly made aware of how his ultimate success will change the world. High-flying, indeed.

I never did see the yogic display. It was felt that a flying demonstration would compromise the gravity of our meeting. Certainly Dr Clements, who is not only the university's vice-chancellor but also party leader, takes his posts seriously. If an election is called soon, would he have time to fulfil both roles? "I am hoping for a bit of stability in the Cabinet for the next few months so we have time to set up at Bentworth," he said.

But as David Lines pointed out, "if he becomes Prime Minister we may have to rethink things." Without its Vice-Chancellor, he explained, the university would be left only with its Perpetual Chancellor, the Maharishi's own tutor. And he has been dead for a number of years.



Yogic flyers in preparation for the world championships

seat you wouldn't be nudging your neighbour.

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Simon Barrington-Ward  
returns to a rebuilt city

## Sharing in Dresden's sorrow

No one who entered one of the ruined cities of Germany after the war will ever forget the experience. I shall always remember my first sight of Berlin. I arrived as a young Cambridge graduate to teach English at the Free University. Flying into the city provided the initial shock. Berlin was a moonscape. Ruins stretched to the horizon. Then came the drive through the ghost city: a grey sky, eerie fragments of buildings, people in miserable cellars.

Although I had been at a school in 1940 from which you could see the sky glow above Coventry on the night when the city burned, and had lain in the shelters there as bombs fell near us, had known the impact of London's Blitz, nothing had prepared me for the devastation of the bombing in Germany.

Soon I was to hear firsthand from those who had suffered in that bombing. Above all, I learnt for the first time about Dresden. I heard the now familiar story. The destruction of 15 square kilometres of a defenceless city, packed with refugees. It was one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, a precious part of the heritage of us all. That night it was defenceless, packed with refugees.

Any genuine military targets, such as an army barracks or factories in the suburbs, were left unscathed, and little or no damage was done to vital road junctions, railway lines, marshalling yards or bridges.

It was horrifying to listen to those whose eyes had gazed upon those devastating firestorms that swept through a whole city, who had struggled out of cellars that were collapsing, who had wandered helpless, struggling for breath in the heat, who had seen friends and family endure a terrible slow or instant death. Their accounts of the sights the next morning, the piled corpses in the rubble, many of the victims the elderly and the young, women and children, some blackened, some seemingly unscathed, lying as if they had fallen asleep: these remain with me.

The bombing of Coventry came as a deep shock because it was the first city to be treated in that way. The ultimate effect was very much smaller than the immense destruction in Dresden. But after that Coventry raid I remember reading in the newspapers and hearing from the radio and from our elders of the utter barbarism of Hitler and the Nazis in attacking citizens. No distinction was made between armaments factories, a cathedral and private housing. Up to a thousand people died, which was terrible enough.

But in Dresden, thousands upon thousands of people perished. The civilians had become the target. Churchill had spoken of sowing a wind to reap a whirlwind.

It was in Germany that I realised that when Goering, and later Goebbels developed

Hitler's idea of "total war", spoke of "concentrating" a city, they were releasing a whirlwind of evil which had come to sweep us all into its orbit. In Britain we had forgotten our earlier high sentiments. We had forgotten Provost Howard inscribing on the ruins of Coventry Cathedral the words "Father, forgive" and calling us in a Christmas broadcast to eschew all thoughts of revenge. We did not heed Bishop Bell when he later condemned the bombing of civilians in his famous House of Lords speech.

The Litany of Reconciliation of Coventry's Community of the Cross of Nails is also prayed in the Kreuzkirche in Dresden every Friday at the hour of Christ's death. It begins with the biblical words: "All have sinned, all have fallen short..."

This is the truth which first came home to me in the ruins of Germany. We are all caught up in this guilt. We all, even today, have the death of thousands of people on our consciences.

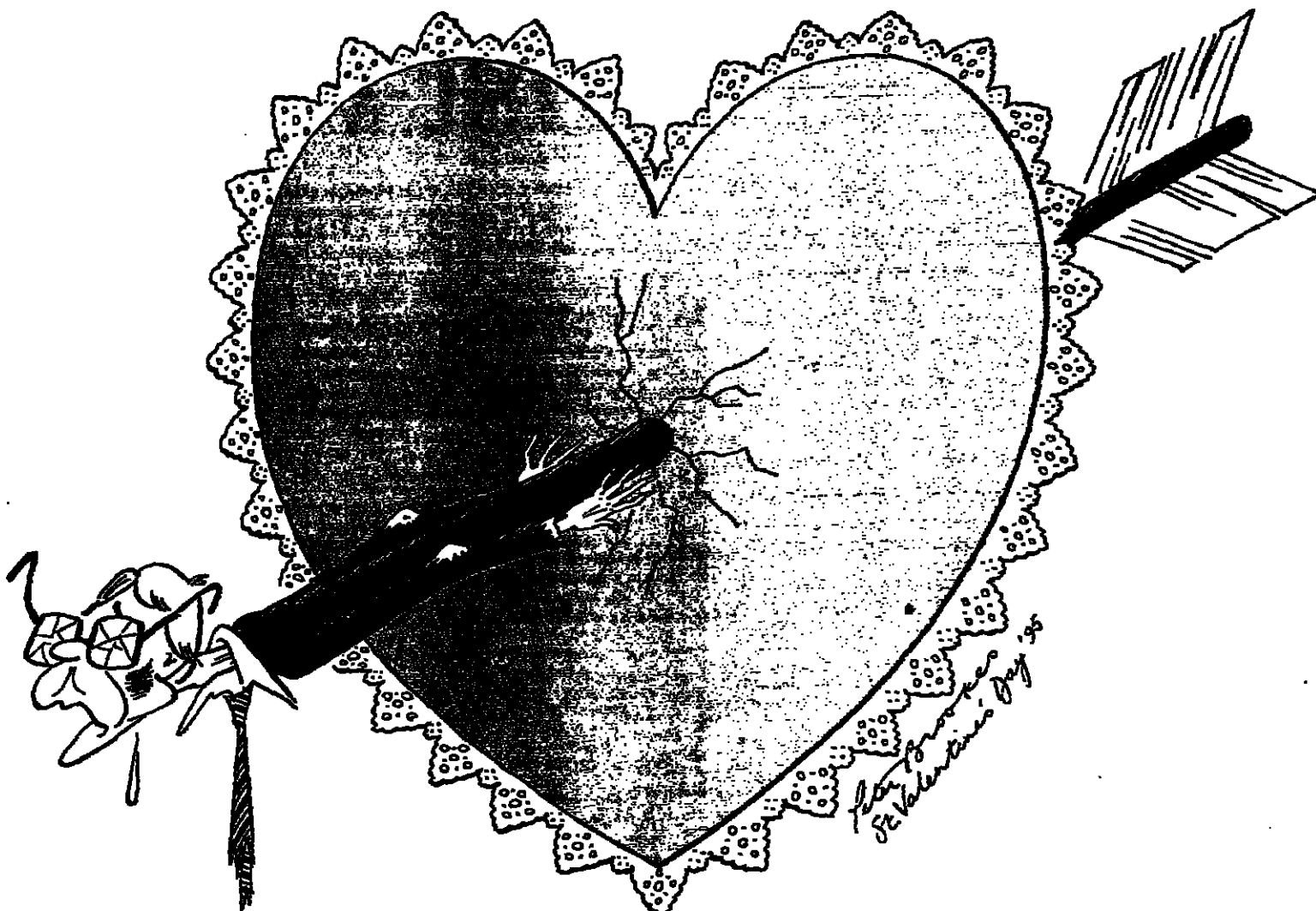
But I encountered more than ruins in Berlin. In the old parish church of Dahlem I met a group of ordinary people, many of whom had been part of a silent movement of resistance to Hitler. They taught me how to find and to share forgiveness, not just as a foundation for personal life, but as the potential basis on which to build a different Europe and a different world.

Surely part of the very essence of the democracy that we fought for when Britain stood alone was the freedom to live out of honest humility and vulnerability. We must be able to keep facing the fact that we have fallen hopelessly short of our ideals. We must be able to accept the blame for our constant illusions and betrayals, to go on being ready to acknowledge failure and to reorientate ourselves. We suffer too much at present from adversarial politics, from a culture of contempt and self-justification. "Only by accepting the past, can you alter its meaning."

For me it was not only an overwhelming privilege, it was a profound necessity to be able to stand up yesterday in Dresden in the Kreuzkirche as Bishop of Coventry and to acknowledge publicly in the presence of a throng of Dresdensers our profound sorrow and regret over what was done to their city 50 years ago. They themselves have been acknowledging their responsibility for the rise of Nazism as they have expressed their sorrow to us.

Our cathedral and the restored Frauenkirche now to be rebuilt from the ruins in Dresden — two churches that have risen again — can come to symbolise the only power left that can bring new hope to our society, to Europe and to the world: forgiveness, the power to begin again.

The author is Bishop of Coventry.



AT THE BROKEN HEART OF EUROPE

## There is a Jewish way

Israel may be in constant turmoil, but it is determined to respect its history

I didn't intend to come back to the question of Jewry so soon after I had written about the Holocaust, but this story is very different indeed, albeit that it could not have happened anywhere other than Israel. However, what I see from my vantage-point would be enough to make my prayer-shawl flutter in the breeze if I had one. (The shawl, not the breeze.)

Consider: You would think, wouldn't you, that the Jews have had enough trouble to fill several centuries, and would not deliberately look for more. Yet it is so: and the *casus belli* (no, you idiot, that is *not* Yiddish for "you're putting on weight") is as strange a one as I ever did hear.

The Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) is almost always in noisy turmoil: this is not, however, the same kind of meaningless shouting and yelling that shames Westminster: it stems from the fact that no Israeli MP can ever agree with any other Israeli MP. And this, in turn, stems from the fact that any number of Jews, starting with two, will inevitably, soon or later, begin to argue. More than that, there is proof that even one Jew can have an argument, and for that matter no number of Jews can finish one.

Now to set the scene I must tell you that it is very rare indeed for any Israeli government to have a majority in the Knesset. There are 120 MPs, and apart from an array of very small but very noisy and argumentative parties, the bigger ones are all too frequently splitting. It is well known that all Israeli Prime Ministers go grey, and many go mad as well.

This, of course, is by no means the only fate that Prime Ministers in democratic countries suffer, as Mr Major could testify if he weren't too busy being stabbed in the back. I am happy to say, what makes the Israelis unique is the reason for the uproar. The budget? No. Taxes? A trifle. Dangerous by-elections? Pshaw. Those shouting and yelling in the Knesset are shouting about the morals and behaviour of King David, who, I am assured, has been dead for approximately three thousand years. Now will you believe me when I say that we Jews are — to put it mildly — different?

It started like this. The Foreign Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, was discussing the delicate matter of the conquest of other nations, and saying bluntly that such conquests were abhorrent to him. To illustrate his point he brought in King David, who

certainly made such conquests. That was bad enough, but Mr Peres went further, and made clear that he deplored King David's behaviour on other scores — viz., the seduction of Bathsheba, who was another man's wife, and — worst of all — sending Bathsheba's husband into a battle in which he would be sure to fall. (In the full text, David's behaviour was even worse: the dirty old man was a Peeping Tom — he was lurking behind a chimney when Bathsheba came out to bathe, and he not only seduced her, he got her pregnant.)

I take no sides (though my grandmother's name was Bathsheba, a very beautiful forename), but I didn't need to — the uproar broke out immediately and — you won't believe this — a motion of no confidence was laid. A motion of no confidence? There were three!

That's nothing. Not long ago a similar uproar broke out when an MP (a daughter of the late Moshe Dayan too), suggested that King David was not just a voyeur, a seducer and to all intents a murderer, but was also — er, um, how shall I put it? — well, actually, a poodah, the evidence being that he said "I love you to me was wonderful, passing the love of women".

And that's not all: hitherto the fire has been directed at Mr Peres, but Prime Minister Rabin has been in very hot water when it was found that, on an important mission to Japan, he was seen to be eating non-kosher food, though nobody, it seems, stopped to think that in Japan there might be no kosher food. You still don't think that Jews are rather peculiar? Try this. A Mr Massoud Cohen — and for Jewish names you can't get more Jewish than Cohen: why, the very Levins have to bow to the Cohens — wanted to marry a Miss Shoshana Haddad. Neither had been married before, they were quite certainly Jewish, they were willing — nay, eager — to go through the most solemn and profound ceremonies, but were denied a marriage. And why? Because it was possible that the would-be bride was

descended from a man who had lived some 2,500 years ago. Well, many men lived and died 2,500 years ago — indeed many of us can claim them among our ancestors — so what was wrong with this particular one? The answer, delivered by the rabbinical authorities, was that it was possible that this particular man might — only might — have been descended from a man who, some 2,500 years ago, might have married a divorced woman.

And because it was possible that such a marriage might have been made, Miss Haddad is debarred from marriage entirely, at least if she wants her marriage to be properly consecrated. (Mr Cohen, did, later, marry the lady of his choice, but it had to be done privately, and anyway, the Chief Rabbi still refuses to recognise the Cohen-Haddad marriage as a real one.)

The first conclusion is inevitably that Jews are not just peculiar but collectively barmy. The second conclusion is that Jews should have long ago wiped away such barbed as those entrusted on the Cohen-Haddad marriage. The third conclusion is that the ordinary Israeli must be pretty feeble to countenance such nonsense.

And the fourth conclusion is that Israel may be right, and touchingly right despite all the barbed and lunacies and tiresomeness. I would not wish to live in Israel: I feel nothing special for the country. But I can applaud from the sidelines, and as I do so, I know what I am applauding. Throughout the centuries, the Jews have been pariahs and worse. Massacre and banishment was always their lot, together with robbery of their homes, their religion, their very lives. Then the thing happened, and the world watched.

And at last the Jews said: "No more." From then on, and into history, the Jews of Israel had learnt to fight. They fought brutally (but how do you fight daintily?), they drove

peaceful Arabs as well as murderous Arabs off the Arabs' land, they stained their shields with shameful blood at Dar Yassin, and still stain them with their behaviour towards Mordecai Vanunu, but they have taken an eternal vow that they will never again go quietly to their deaths, and if they go to their deaths at all, they will take their killers with them.

And that is why absurdities like the banning of the Cohen-Haddad marriage are tolerated, to tell the world that Israel is a country that has her own way of doing things, and that some of those things are ridiculous, and some are bad, and some are both at the same time.

So when the Knesset breaks up in shouting and almost with fistfuffs, just because King David's crown is thought to be besmirched, there is a reason for the shouting though King David has been dead for thirty centuries. I repeat that I would not wish to live in Israel, and not only because I sometimes like a ham sandwich and don't like to be stoned for breaking the sacred sabbath. That, of course, must make Mr Cohen and Miss Haddad very cross, and so would you and I be in their circumstances. But the trouble with a country like Israel is that it has to be everything or nothing: the Jews did not become a nation in order to banish ham, but in becoming a nation ham was accidentally banished, and the fact is that the absurd food superstitions have to be obeyed, however irritating. (But then, it is still true that Israel only has to lose one war to disappear for ever.)

However irritating, Israel and its Jews will never again be slaughtered by madmen, or for that matter by perfectly sane ones. But that was not a decree coming from the United Nations (a fat lot of use that would be), but a statement from the Jews themselves, and if they come to blows over the behaviour of King David, it shows at least that they take their history seriously. When shall we see fighting in our Parliament over the behaviour of William the Conqueror or Owen Glendower? (I don't think Dennis Skinner would really fit the bill.)

I am sorry for the Cohen-Haddad marriage: happily, it has now been solemnised, Chief Rabbi or no Chief Rabbi. But since the Chief Rabbi refuses to recognise it, the pair cannot claim social security benefits. Go and tell King David that. But beware of the certainty that someone else will say the opposite.

Bernard  
Levin

## Royal tips

THERE HAVE been plenty of suggestions that the Prince of Wales talks to his plants. Next month, however, he will be talking about them — in a lecture on the gardens at Highgrove. His Royal Highness has been signed up by the National Trust for its centenary lecture in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.

The main lecturer will be Rosemary Verey, a gardening consultant who has been advising the Prince at Highgrove for many years. But Verey says that His Royal Highness, who has agreed to introduce the lecture, will participate as well. "It's really very exciting for me to be doing it with him. We are going to have a rehearsal together beforehand," she says.

Chances are that the lecture might develop into a sort of royal gardeners' Question Time. Buckingham Palace confirms that the Prince will be on hand. "Basically people are going to ask Rosemary Verey questions," said a spokeswoman. "But he might answer one or two of them, you never know."

The Prince's commitment to his garden cannot be doubted. "He is at home in his garden and works very hard at it," says Verey. "He

has his own tools. He digs his own holes and plants his plants himself. He has a great eye for design and is always wanting to go into new projects." But talking to plants? "No, of course he doesn't talk to them. He just loves his garden and he really works at it."

● Be warned all Valentines venturing down London's Park Lane



Verey: potty about plants

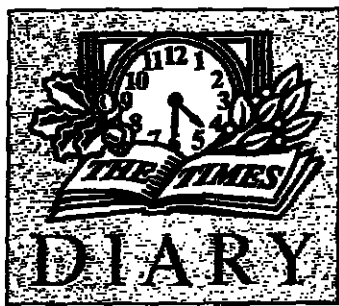
this evening. Drunken Cossacks will be at bay, having spilled out from the War and Peace Ball at the Dorchester, where Count Nikolai Tolstoy and countrymen will be whooping it up in period dress.

### Rubber ball

HIGH HEELS and leather will be a common sight among visitors to an art exhibition due to start touring in April this year. The first fetishism exhibition starts at the Brighton Museum, providing art with the opportunity "to explore the concept of fetishism".

Among the exhibits which can be mentioned are a series of fake cows' udders by an artist exploring the "metaphorical resonance of udders". Other exhibits include animal organs preserved in jars, and balls of human hair and toenails preserved in polyurethane. There is a basin in a briefcase which "conjures up a sinister sexuality", according to its creator, Adrian Piggo, a specialist in coloured toilet rolls. The organiser, London's South Bank Centre, confirms that taxpayers are helping to fund this no-doubt essential show.

● Yet another member of the Douglas-Hamilton clan has landed in trouble for failing to resist the urge to fertilise himself before



driving. Scotland's Transport Minister Lord James Douglas-Hamilton has seen three of his four brothers convicted for drink-driving related offences over the past couple of years. Yesterday, Anthony Buchanan-Watt, who is married to the minister's first cousin, lost his licence after admitting driving while over the limit.

### Just Kuwait

YASHMAKS are flying in New York over a plagiarism suit. The plaintiff is a British citizen who wed a Kuwaiti diplomat and wrote a book (never published) about her unhappy marriage. Frederike Monika Adsanil claims her story bears an uncanny similarity to the bestseller *Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil*, by Jean Sasson, as well as to its sequel. She

says she showed it to Sasson's New York agent four years before her book was published.

"The chances of these books having been independently created in this case are about as likely as a team of monkeys coming up with Shakespeare by pounding typewriters," says Adsanil's lawyer. "It's a frivolous claim," retorts the other side.

### Coincidentally

THE O.J. SIMPSON trial may be in full flow, but it hasn't prevented the footballer's defence lawyer, Alan Dershowitz, from producing his first novel: a "compelling legal thriller" concerning a basketball hero who escapes conviction for rape.

Dershowitz is not cashing in on the trial, insists his publisher. "The publication date later this month is quite fortuitous."

### All Rhodes

BILL CLINTON will be gratified to see that his enthusiasm for student protest while a Rhodes scholar at Oxford in the 1970s is being maintained by the current crop of radical young things. The class of '95 is going on hunger strike.

Around 15 American Rhodes

BUT WE COULD BE SO GOOD TOGETHER



scholars, about a third of the current group, are fasting from tomorrow to draw attention to recent legislation in California to withdraw schooling and healthcare from illegal immigrants. The strike will last three days.

Even this, it seems, is too much for those scholars who are aware of the problems Clinton had all those years after his anti-Vietnam War demonstrations. "Some are aware of their political careers," admits organiser Eric Garcetti. "They don't want to participate because they are not sure how it will reflect in the future."

P-H-S

## Reject Europe's conceit

Woodrow Wyatt  
says immigration  
fears are real

In last Summer's Euro parliament campaign, John Major concentrated on our relations with the EU; Labour and the Lib Dems concentrated on local grumbles, especially VAT on domestic fuel. The Tories were reduced to 19 seats out of the 57 available. Labour won 63 and the Lib Dems two. For the sake of a mid-term kick at the government, insular British voters got MEPs whose views on subservience to Brussels are almost the very opposite of their own. Then the voters were not concerned with the real and complicated issues; now they begin to be, and would like to hear them properly debated so they can understand the direction we are heading and reverse course if they dislike it. Normally, Cabinets disagreeing lose respect, but not over Europe. Before the 1973 referendum on the Common Market, the varied but publicly expressed views of political leaders across the parties were valued contributions, helping voters to clearer thought.

Messrs Clarke, Heseltine and probably Hurd favour a single European currency and closer political union, claiming that this could happen without a federal government and destruction of national independence. By 2000, the EU will have some 20 members, with national economies ranging from rich to very poor. Nations alter their interest rates, exchange rates and major taxation in response to internal inflationary or disinflationary pressures, of which many are intertwined with the need to remain competitive in world trade. But with a single currency there can be only one authority: the European Central Bank, doubtless based on the German Bundesbank, taking these decisions.

Similarly, interest rates are determined centrally in the 50 American states, although local taxes vary. Tax collected at the centre compels the richer states to subsidise the poorer. This is precisely what would have to happen in the EU. Britain would be obliged to subsidise not merely its own poor, but the far more desperate poverty elsewhere.

The odd men out in the Cabinet have started a useful debate. They stop well short of official Labour policy, which, *inter alia*, would ruinously end our opt-out from the social chapter, but the logic of their approach inevitably ends in federalism. The Labour Party dare not have an open debate among its leaders on the single currency, because its divisions are much deeper. Fifty MPs defied the Labour whip on Maastricht, and 40 on the EC Finance Act.

Public interest has been sharply increased by growing awareness that EU courts, using Continental law, are overturning not just our legislation but the decisions of our courts, based on wholly different English and Scottish law. It is intolerable that a Court of Human Rights, where the judges are not lawyers, should demand compensation for Peter Welch, the cocaine smuggler and dealer sentenced to 22 years' imprisonment in 1988, as well as insisting on the return of his forfeited £59,000 of illegal profits plus £14,000 for his legal expenses. The same court has ordered us to treat part-time workers as if they were full-time, ruling that not doing so discriminates against women. If that is accepted, many employers will have to fire part-time workers or use machines.

The Government has rejected the contention of Mr Wardle, late of the Home Office, that we are about to lose control over immigration. The Government relies on a declaration appended to the Single European Act for its prerogative of maintaining immigration checks at our sea and airports. The European Commission fights to end them, claiming they are against EU law, and a European Court might agree. The British were not consulted over the large-scale post-war immigration from countries recently given independence. If they had been, they would have resisted it.

So far, apart from some groups of Muslim fanatics, most immigrants have become good integrated British citizens. But if we take more there will be a violent backlash against ethnic minorities, as their responsible leaders recognise. Peter Tompkins was formerly in charge of immigration at the Home Office. He asserts that the annual rate of new immigrants exceeds 100,000 — double the official figure. On top there are probably half a million illegal immigrants now here. If we are additionally forced to take millions of those entering the EU through its badly policed frontiers from Morocco, Algeria, Russia and elsewhere, public fury will explode. This issue ought not to wait until the 1996 inter-governmental conference; it should be settled soon.

Before the 1973 referendum, a government White Paper said the proposition was to enter a trade association, not a political union. Most of us wish it had stayed that way. Some wish to surrender yet more power in the false and defeatist belief that we must, just to survive. John Major vows to roll back the powers seized by the Commission. A few Tory and most opposition MPs disagree. But Major will succeed: he gauges the national mood correctly.











## OBITUARIES

## RALPH MERRIFIELD

Ralph Merrifield, archaeologist and former Deputy Director of the Museum of London, died on January 9 aged 81. He was born on August 22, 1913.

RALPH MERRIFIELD did more than anyone else, both by example and influence, to put the archaeology of London and its environs on a firm footing. His first book, *The Roman City of London* (1965), brought information gathered from postwar excavations and observations of the capital, together with earlier records, to produce a masterful historical synthesis and topographical gazetteer.

This survey, the result of research carried out largely in his own time, was a landmark in the study of Roman London. It brought the subject to the attention of a wide audience and established Merrifield's reputation as a leading authority on the early history of the capital.

His first important paper on new discoveries in London had been published in 1962. It was a study of Roman coins found by building workers in the bed of the Walbrook, the stream that bisected Roman London, when archaeologists were no longer allowed on the sites. Other more general but indispensable publications followed: *Roman London* (1969) which extended his researches beyond the City and *The Archaeology of London* (1975) which surveyed the region from the Stone Age to the Dark Ages.

Ralph Merrifield's father died when he was three and he was brought up by his mother, who went back to teaching to provide for herself and her son. Educated at Varndean



Grammar School, Brighton, he gave up the chance of going on to university to become an assistant at Brighton Museum in 1930. Studying in his spare time, he took a London external degree in anthropology five years later.

He served in the RAF during the Second World War interpreting aerial photographs. In 1944 he served in India and Indonesia.

After demobilisation he returned to his job at the

Brighton Museum: in 1950 he was appointed Assistant Keeper to the Corporation of London's Guildhall Museum. He arrived in London at a time when archaeologists were attempting, in extremely difficult circumstances, to salvage what they could of the remains of Roman and medieval London from a city more than a third destroyed by German bombing and which now faced extensive redevelopment. These campaigns eff-

ectively culminated in the discovery by Professor Grimes in 1954 of the Mithraeum close to the Walbrook.

As Deputy Keeper of Guildhall Museum from 1960 to 1975 Merrifield was much concerned with the preparation of the Prehistoric and Roman Galleries for the new Museum of London in the Barbican, which was brought into being by the merger of the Guildhall and London museums.

From the outset of his career he was a firm believer in the need for what he termed "archaeological substance" to support ideas about the past. This to a large extent explains his Herculean efforts both at Guildhall, and later the Museum of London, where he was Deputy Director between 1977 and 1978, to ensure that archaeological organisations were established in London which could deal with the destruction caused by the redevelopment of sites.

His efforts led to the establishment of the Guildhall Museum's Department of Urban Archaeology for the City in 1973 as well as the setting up during the early 1970s of field organisations for Southwark and other parts of London. These were all brought together as the Department of Greater London Archaeology at the Museum of London in 1983.

During his 28 years at the Museum of London, Merrifield had several spells away. In 1956 he visited the Gold Coast to help establish what was to be the National Museum of Ghana and in 1976 pursued his anthropological interests in the Far East.

In recent years Merrifield, like many was troubled by the changes imposed on London archaeology by English Heri-

tag and he backed the appointment of the Standing Conference on London Archaeology to gauge their effects.

Retirement from the Museum of London in 1978 left him with more time to write, and among his later achievements were two further books. *London City of the Romans* (1983) was a history of Londinium and its environs drawing widely on the results of the large number of excavations that had taken place in the previous 15 years. *The Archaeology of Ritual and Magic* (1987) reflected his interest in folklore and religion and was written in the hope that it would correct what he termed "the tendency of archaeologists to let evidence for ritual activity sink without trace".

He published many other papers and returned to the study of the Walbrook Valley in the Roman period. Here he demonstrated, with intellectual persuasion that, contrary to the view of recent writers, a ritual rather than a secular origin best explained the quantities of metalwork deposited in the stream bed.

Merrifield's powers in no way diminished with age: neither did his commitment to London archaeology. He continued to exercise his wide range of interests and to communicate them through writing and teaching. Less than a month before his death he was in Northern Ireland lecturing to extra-mural students on "Magic Protection of the Home".

Merrifield was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1951. In that year he married Lyseth Webb who survives him with their son and daughter.

## LADY RAMSEY



The Ramseys leaving for the Soviet Union in July 1962

Lady Ramsey, widow of the 10th Archbishop of Canterbury, died yesterday in Oxford aged 84. She was born on September 16, 1910.

JOAN RAMSEY served the Church of England with a dedication remarkable not only for its length, as the constantly present wife of Michael Ramsey, but also for the humour, humanity and independence of mind which she brought to her role.

Born in Lincolnshire, Joan Hamilton — as she then was — spent a significant part of her childhood in Ireland. She developed an attachment to that country which never left her; it troubled her deeply.

It was while she was chauffeur-secretary to Leslie Owen, the Bishop of Jarrow, that she came to know Mich-

ael Ramsey, then the young Bishop of Durham. He asked her to visit him one day and proposed marriage to her over a cup of tea. They married on April 8, 1942, in the Galilee Chapel of Durham Cathedral. Their relationship had a devotion and constancy of rare quality. Unfailing in her concern for his every need, Joan nevertheless provided what he regarded as the most important assistance of all: "Clergy wives are very, very, very important, don't you see? They prick the bubble."

Joan Ramsey's determination to treat all people equally was in startling contrast to the domestic regimes she inherited, particularly after Rosamond Fisher's rule at Lambeth. She knew people's names, be they royalty or cleaner. She knew their children's names and their joys and sorrows. She delighted in startling people by her refusal

to accept the detachments of her social elevation. She had a mischievous set of private nicknames, affectionate towards some, scurrilous towards others, and an ability to caricature snobbery or pomposity with short and devastating phrases matched only by a clarity of vision concerning Church affairs and rivalries. She was always a champion of the underdog.

The one huge and privately-born sadness of her life was their failure to have children, a sadness she ameliorated by her fun with, and encouragement of, young people wherever she met them all over the world.

The other sadness was her husband's death. Always welcoming to a stream of visitors she nevertheless longed, with lively faith, for the "doxa" — the glory — of which he so often spoke.

## HENDRIK SCHOEMAN



Hendrik Schoeman, former South African Minister of Agriculture and of Transport, died from a gunshot wound on his farm near Delmas, Eastern Transvaal, on February 12 aged 67. He was born in Delmas on June 11, 1927.

AS THE senior member of the Cabinet, Hendrik Schoeman was sworn in as Acting President in 1986 when P. W. Botha made a brief and controversial visit to France. As the aircraft took off from Johannesburg airport, Schoeman turned to his grim-faced colleagues and told them: "In my office at 9am. There's going to be a

Cabinet reshuffle." It was typical of a man noted for a broad sense of humour, often as earthy as his farming roots. He spurned formality and once declared: "Only moffies [practising homosexuals] wear cufflinks."

Soon after being elected to parliament in 1966 he was privately rebuked by the Speaker over the unrestrained tone of his speeches. During one in 1977, when he was Minister of Agriculture, he asserted: "No one goes to bed hungry in South Africa." This was at the height of the apartheid era when tens of thousands of people were being forcibly uprooted from their homes under the "black

spot" removals system and Group Areas Act, but there was no criticism of his remark by the National Party.

Two years later controversy did erupt when it was disclosed that he used child labour on his farms and that some workers were paid as little as 80 cents (about 40p at the time) a day. Schoeman had appointed his son Kallie as managing director of his farming interests, which extended for more than 26,000 acres in the Eastern Transvaal, when he joined the Cabinet.

Hendrik Stephanus Johannes Schoeman was born into a farming family with an impeccable Afrikaner political heri-

tage — both his grandfather and great-grandfather were Boer War generals. After school in Pretoria he studied agriculture in the United States.

He then returned home where, with the National Party newly in power, he rapidly expanded the family's estates. He was appointed chairman of several agricultural societies, was made a director of Volkskas, the Afrikaner-controlled bank, and was also a member of the Broederbond.

He was elected to parliament in 1966 and became a deputy Minister of Agriculture two years later and a Cabinet member as the minister in 1972. In 1978 he was regarded as a contender for the leadership of the National Party in the Transvaal. But he withdrew in favour of Dr Andries Treurnicht who was later to break away and form the right-wing Conservative Party.

Schoeman became Transport Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle in 1980 and, under his leadership, trains were desegregated on South African railways. He also became leader of the white House of Assembly in the tri-cameral parliament of separate white, Coloured and Indian chambers.

He resigned from the Cabinet and from parliament in 1986 when his wife Christelle became seriously ill. Soon afterwards he remarked that P. W. Botha's greatest achievement was "keeping his Cabinet together after I quit". But it was not too long before South Africa's most autocratic Afrikaner ruler was himself ousted from office by F. W. de Klerk.

His son Kallie found him dead — from what police said was a self-inflicted gunshot wound — in his car among the ripening maize (maize) crop not far from the spot where his eldest son, Christian, committed suicide in 1974. It was a personal tragedy that Schoeman never got over.

Schoeman leaves his wife, his son and daughter.

## MARIAN BOHUSZ-SZYSZKO

Marian Bohusz-Szyszko, artist, died on January 28 aged 93. He was born in Trokennik, Poland, on February 2, 1901.

WHEN Marian Bohusz-Szyszko arrived in England after the Second World War at the age of 45 he was almost unknown as an artist in this country, although he had established a reputation in his homeland. By the time he held his first one-man exhibition in England in 1959, *The Guardian's* art critic Eric Newton was ready to call him "a great artist," generously adding, "and great, as opposed to competent or interesting, artists are rare."

Bohusz-Szyszko acquired a unique place as a contemporary religious painter. His works were not only admired by the art world but they came to have a symbolic influence on the modern hospice movement, whose founder Dame Cicely Saunders, OM, he married in 1980. More than sixty of his paintings are on permanent display at the St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham, where he died.

Born while most of Poland was still part of the Russian Empire, he fought in the 1920 war that established Poland's frontiers. He showed an early talent for mathematics and drawing and much of his career, including five years in a German POW camp during the Second World War, was spent in teaching these two subjects. A graduate of the noted Fine Arts School in Cracow, he was an exhibitor in Poland before the war; but, like many émigrés, he had to rebuild his career after coming to England in November 1946. His first London show was at Grabowski's



gallery in 1959 and as he moved from his earlier analytical realism to Expressionist modes he had successful exhibitions in Europe and the United States. Although Bohusz-Szyszko was a brilliant portraitist, he increasingly devoted himself to such Christian images as the Archangels, the Madonna and the crucified Christ. For him, painting was truly the music of God, and that vision sustained him at his easel.

He gave himself with equal dedication to Polish causes, and especially the Polish community in London where he founded the Polish School of Art soon after his arrival in Britain, and played an active role in the Polish Institute.

Marian Bohusz-Szyszko was first married to Zofia Lubienicka, from whom he was permanently separated by the war and who died in Cracow in 1973. They had one son whom his father saw for the first time in 20 years when he visited England in 1959. Bohusz-Szyszko originally met Dame Cicely when she came to his exhibition at the Drian Gallery in 1963 and bought one of his paintings — *Christ Calming the Waves* — believing that it would add to the atmosphere she desired in her then newly launched hospice. Bohusz-Szyszko became artist-in-residence there in 1977 and his paintings continue to have an influence on all who work, or are cared for, at the hospice.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

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 Snugglepops.....


  
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*pour l'Homme*

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of Fruitbat, Squidgy,  
Snugglepops.....   
Interflora

**FREECALL 0500 43 43 43.**



## NEWS

## Santer immigration threat to Britain

■ The European Commission will announce tomorrow a fresh attempt to force Britain to abandon passport controls on EU travellers.

Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, will tell the European Parliament that he is planning a directive that aims to end Britain's right to keep checks at ports and airports to monitor the movements of non-EU citizens who wish to enter Britain. Any such directive would have to be approved by all 15 member states. Pages 1, 2, 8, 16, 17

## Bank stunned by chief's resignation

■ The City's leading independent merchant bank, SC Warburg, was plunged into confusion after the sudden resignation of Lord Cairns, its chief executive, and the issuing of a profits warning. Pages 1, 23, 25, 27

## Dresden regret

The Duke of Kent came close to apologising for the British role in bombing Dresden 50 years ago, at ceremonies to mark the anniversary. Pages 1, 10

## Marriage incentive

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, says in a Valentine's Day broadcast that the Government should provide couples with tax incentives to make marriage financially attractive. Page 1

## Peace talks plea

Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, is expected to underline Dublin's concern that Britain is moving too slowly in the peace process when he meets Sir Patrick Mayhew at Stormont Castle today. Page 2

## Troops hunt killer

Troops in the Irish Republic have joined the hunt for the killer of a five-year-old boy after an elderly woman was attacked in her home near the scene of the murder in Co. Kildare. Page 3

## Pools firm cutback

Vernons, the football pools company, is being forced by competition from the National Lottery to cut donations to charity by 58 million a year. Page 5

## Sewer pressure

Britain's ageing sewerage system is breaking down under the pressures of one of the wettest winters on record. Page 7

## Emotional squalls batter tiny island

■ The island of Lundy (population: 11), a windswept hunk of granite 21 miles off the north Devon coast, has been in turmoil since the arrival of a new barmaid last spring. Seven of the islanders have left, one marriage has ended and the barmaid has been flown to hospital on the mainland after an apparent overdose. Page 3

## BUSINESS

Kingfisher: The boardroom blood-bath at Kingfisher, the retail conglomerate, continued with the abrupt departure of two more executive directors. Page 23

Options: Rank Organisation, the diversified leisure group, has poured fuel on the row over executive share options with the grant of another 1.4 million options to its executive board. Page 23

Economy: The Government faced more evidence of rising price pressures in industry. Demand on the High Street, however, appears to be weakening. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 28.8 points to close at 3081.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 78.8 after a rise from \$1.5607 to \$1.5638 to a fall from DM2.3785 to DM2.3743. Page 26

## SPORT

Cricket: Mushtaq Mohammad, the former Pakistan captain, admitted suggesting that Allan Border should throw the 1993 Edgbaston Test but said he meant it as a joke. Page 44

Football: John Barnes, who has been at the centre of Liverpool's revival under Roy Evans, tells Oliver Holt how he is relishing his new role in midfield. Page 42

Rugby league: Rodney Walker, chairman of the Rugby Football League, acknowledges the need for drastic action to prevent the game from stagnating. Page 40

Snooker: Ronnie O'Sullivan and John Higgins, the finalists in the Benson and Hedges Masters, are the finest teenage talents in a decade. Page 42

Rugby union: England will support a bid by Wales to host the 1999 World Cup. Page 44



A pair of storks nesting in Alcalá de Henares, 19 miles northeast of Madrid. Storks migrate to Africa at the beginning of winter and return to Spain in early February.

## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

■ CHIC LINES  
Iain R. Webb on the style icons of the past and how their inspiration lives on

■ COACH WORKS  
David Miller on England's tactical way forward under Terry Venables



## ARTS

One day in 1948: A time capsule buried in the foundations of the Royal Festival Hall includes a copy of *The Times* of October 12, 1949. What does it tell us about life in late 1940s Britain? Page 33

Klein on show: The avant-garde pioneer Yves Klein is celebrated in a new Hayward show "Leap into the Void". Page 31

Literati: The lives and loves of two great poets are celebrated in new plays: *Sir John Falstaff* by W.H. Auden to the stage, while Tennyson is the subject of *Dark Glory*. Page 32

Borodins at 50: The Borodin String Quartet celebrated its 50th anniversary with three superb Wigmore Hall concerts. Page 31

## FEATURES

Nigella Lawson: "Quite what the point is of sending a Valentine's card you sign, and moreover that you send to someone with whom you live and have children, is beyond me. But even I have had to give in the propaganda is just too much". Page 15

New worlds: Until recently, the womb was beyond the reach of the surgeon's knife. Nigel Hawkes on the revolution in foetal surgery. Page 14

## LAW

Wild times: It is ironic that one of the classics of legal literature concerns the destruction by the English legal process of Oscar Wilde. Page 35

Shopping brief: Where Britons shop is now being influenced as much by lawyers who work on big property deals as by leading retailers. Page 39

Group trust: Lawyers who take the lead in group actions have to be careful to keep the trust of the public. Page 39

## THE PAPERS

President Zedillo of Mexico took a risky gamble in moving from negotiation to confrontation with the rebel Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Chiapas. Zedillo announced that Marcos and other Zapatista leaders are not poor descendants of the Maya but urban Mexicans with well-to-do families. — *Los Angeles Times*

Director of the CIA used to be one of Washington's most coveted jobs, a critical command position on the front lines of the Cold War. But no longer. — *The New York Times*

## TV LISTEN

Preview: The contentious practice of open-womb surgery, and its ethical implications, are explored in *Horizon: Twice Born* (BBC2, 9.30pm). Review: Matthew Bond salutes the promising talent of Martin Sadofski, writer of BBC2's *Blood and Peaches*. Page 43

## OPINION

## Balladur's lullaby

To judge by the manifesto he presented yesterday, M. Balladur calculates that the image of prudent manager of cautious change, which has served him so well as Prime Minister, will see him safely into the Elysée in May. Page 17

## Paddy's showdown

If ever there were an opportunity for the two main Opposition parties to oust the Government, the time must be now. Page 17

## Crown and gown

Having just voted judiciously to abolish its system of entrance examinations, Oxford has turned its attention to reform of Regius professorships. Page 16

## COLUMNS

## BISHOP OF COVENTRY

It was horrifying to listen to those in Dresden whose eyes had gazed upon those devastating firestorms that swept through a whole city, who had struggled out of cellars that were collapsing to climb into the inferno. Page 16

## BERNARD LEVIN

Why are they shouting and yelling in the Knesset? They are shouting about the morals and behaviour of King David, who, I am assured, has been dead for approximately three thousand years. Page 16

## PETER RIDDELL

Two junior ministers have resigned in the past week. The only surprise is that more have not done so, not because they are forced out or disagree over policy but because the job is unsatisfactory. Page 1

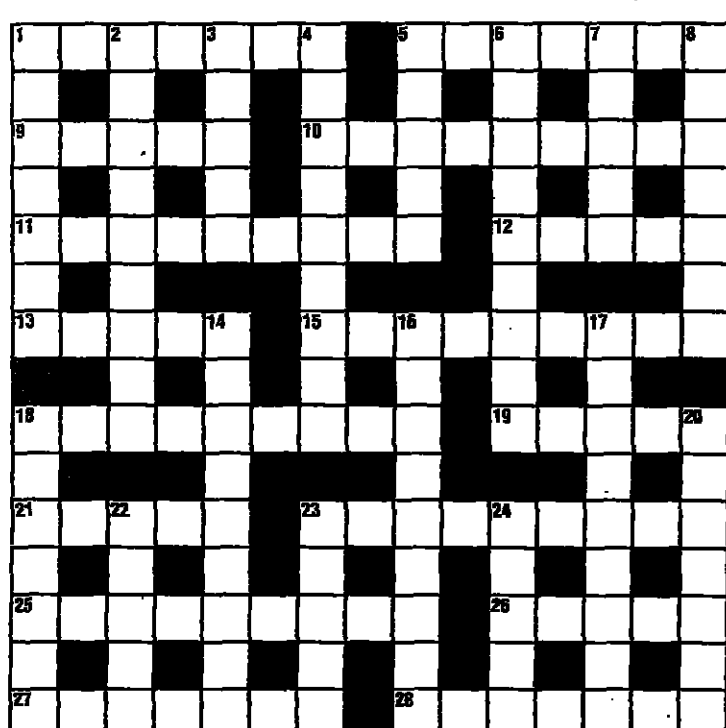
## OBITUARIES

Ralph Merrifield, scholar of Roman London; Lady Ramsay, widow of 100th Archbishop of Canterbury; Hendrik Schoeman, former South African Agriculture and Transport Minister; Maria Bohusz-Szyszko, artist. Page 1

## LETTERS

Resignation of Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson. Page 11

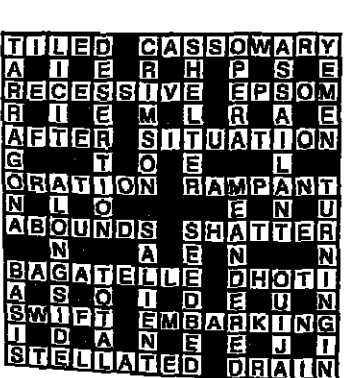
## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,778



## ACROSS

- 1 Herb turned ass round (7).
- 5 Susceptible to message about father (7).
- 9 State of the ground until then concealed (5).
- 10 Disappear with flag when about to speak (9).
- 11 Record recurrent sequence of events, say, giving power... (9).
- 12 ...over actor (5).
- 13 'Nick nothing other than cash' - house-breakers' first principles (5).
- 15 Learning elementary Dutch in week-long course (9).
- 18 Son in deep trouble given money periodically (9).
- 19 Swift onslaught seizing power (5).
- 21 In America, both hands are needed to hold a chain (5).

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,777



- 23 In the middle of the country, half Grasse produces perfume (9).
- 25 By the sound of it, waiving the charges due (9).
- 26 Maiden lady produces delicious food (5).
- 27 Refrain from offending a relation (7).
- 28 Hear about old play (7).

## DOWN

- 1 Bunting - there's much put up in port (7).
- 2 To give 15 point, after in length (9).
- 3 Shudder at Jack Frost, say (5).
- 4 It's clear a boy has passed (9).
- 5 Crack made when Charles got married (5).
- 6 Screw's length about right? On the contrary (9).
- 7 Sort of leaf publicised by railway performance (5).
- 8 Raise English tax, in general (7).
- 14 This alone could be responsible for precipitation (9).
- 16 Concerning man from the wood (2,7).
- 17 In Charleston perhaps begin to show remorse (2,7).
- 18 He works with metal and soft wood (7).
- 20 Regarding food, get it ready cooked (7).
- 22 A sailor got up as a weight-lifter? (5).
- 23 Dim fellow is not vulgar (5).
- 24 Game doctor takes a number of steps (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
East of London	702
South East	703
West of London	704
West Midlands	705
East Midlands	706
North East	707
North West	708
Yorkshire & the Humber	709
West Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
North East	712
North West	713
Yorkshire & the Humber	714
West Midlands	715
East Midlands	716
North East	717
North West	718
Yorkshire & the Humber	719
West Midlands	720
East Midlands	721
North East	722
North West	723
Yorkshire & the Humber	724
West Midlands	725
East Midlands	726
North East	727
North West	728
Yorkshire & the Humber	729
West Midlands	730
East Midlands	731
North East	732
North West	733
Yorkshire & the Humber	734
West Midlands	735
East Midlands	736
North East	737
North West	738
Yorkshire & the Humber	739
West Midlands	740
East Midlands	741
North East	742
North West	743
Yorkshire & the Humber	744
West Midlands	745

Weather is changed at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0334 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
East of London	732
South East	733
West of London	734
West Midlands	735
East Midlands	736
North East	737
North West	738
Yorkshire & the Humber	739
West Midlands	740
East Midlands	741
North East	742
North West	743
Yorkshire & the Humber	744
West Midlands	745

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Queensy, Channel Islands, 15C (59F); lowest day temp: Sella Ness, Shetland, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Sella Ness, Shetland, 0.6in; highest sunshine: Isles of Scilly, 5.5hr.

## FORECAST

□ General: England and Wales will start dry but rain will reach Wales and southwest England around midday, and then spread east across all areas. Southwesterly winds will strengthen, touching gale force, but it should be mild. Scotland and Northern Ireland will start dry, except on western coasts. Rain in Northern Ireland later in the morning will spread across all areas by evening. Strong to gale-force southerly winds, turning westerly. Mild in most places.

□ London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: dry with clear or sunny spells, rain will arrive by evening. Wind SW, fresh increasing strong. Max 10C (50F).

□ Central S England, W Midlands, Channel Isles: sunny spells at first, rain spreading east, followed by clearer weather. Wind SW, fresh increasing strong. Max 10C (50F).

□ SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: dry at first. Rain, heavy at times, spreading east, followed by brighter, showery weather. Wind SW, strong, perhaps gale. Max 10C (50F).

□ NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland: showers then rain, which will be heavy at times. Thundery showers later. Wind S, strong to gale, turning W. Max 8C (46F).

□ Orkney, Shetland: rain at first. Lining mainly dry. Further rain from the southwest during the evening. Wind SW, moderate, turning S, strong to gale. Max 6C (43F).

□ Outlook: unsettled with showers, brighter intervals. Mild in the south.

## AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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## ABROAD

India	15	58	s	41	s	Madrid	13	55	c	Riyadh	20	68	s
London	18	58	s	61	s	Malaga	16	61	c	Rome	15	59	f
Moscow	17	63	f	11	52	Melbourne	14	57	c	Sao Paulo	18	63	f
Perth	22	75	s	14	57	Mumbai	20	68	s	S Frisco	14	57	c
Shanghai	9	45	Pa	18	64	Moscow	17	63	f	Santiago	29	84	s
Singapore	28	79	f	11	52	Nairobi	18	63	f	Tokyo	21	68	s
Sydney	25	77	f	9	45	Paris	10	50	c	Ulaanbaatar	1	32	s
Taipei	22	75	s	14	57	Rangoon	28	79	f	Yokohama	5	41	s
Tokyo	22	75	s	14	57	San Francisco	14	57	c				
Ulaanbaatar	39	90	f	19	66	Sao Paulo	18	63	f				
Yokohama	22	75	s	14	57	Seoul	5	41	s				
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## ARTS 31-33

Yves Klein: painter with a genius for the blues



## LAW 35-39

Young barristers switch to become solicitors



## SPORT 40-44

Barnes back to basics in redefined role

CURTAINS UP ON A NEW ENTERPRISE  
Small business 30

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14 1995

## Scholey becomes chief executive as Cairns quits

# 1,000 Warburg jobs may go

By PATRICIA TEHAN  
BANKING  
CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 1,000 jobs are set to go at SG Warburg as part of a cost-cutting exercise revealed yesterday along with the departure of Lord Cairns, the chief executive.

He has been forced to accept responsibility for the failure of merger talks with Morgan Stanley. He offered his resignation to an emergency meeting of the Warburg board at the weekend.

News of his departure came as Warburg issued a profits warning. The shares continued their downward spiral, closing 20p lower at 70p last night.

Sir David Scholey, the chairman, has cancelled retirement plans and is to take over the chief executive's role, heading a new executive committee of five, which will effectively be the bank's chief executive. He said: "The close-knit executive partnership core is the most effective style of management and one I am comfortable with."

In the short term, the bank is expected to begin to scale back its share-trading operation. Instead, it is likely to concentrate on higher-margin business such as share issuing and trading in the shares of larger firms. The cutbacks are expected to come in secondary equities distribution where margins are low.

Warburg was keen to emphasise that the decision to go came from Lord Cairns, that he had not been asked to resign. However, the directors made no attempt to persuade him to stay as chief executive. Sir David said a senior banker in corporate finance, but decided to go.

Sir David said: "The Morgan Stanley discussions took a very heavy toll on Simon Cairns." He believed the merger would enable him to achieve his long-term strategic



Sir David Scholey, top, and Lord Cairns, who has quit



vision of turning Warburg into a powerful global investment banking group. When the talks failed, he felt as though the ground had been swept from under his feet.

The Warburg board was forced to act to restore confidence after the failed merger attempt and the departure last week of some of its key staff to Morgan Grenfell.

In staff meetings yesterday and in a memo to staff, Sir David attempted to restore calm and set out a strategy for Warburg's future.

In a profits warning, Sir David said that while Mercury Asset Management, Warburg's 75 per cent-owned fund manager, had performed in line with expectations and

some of the investment bank's activities had done well, "the difficult market environment has continued to have an adverse effect on investment banking results".

The results for 1994 will be published in May. Analysts lowered their profit forecasts for Warburg from about £160 million to £135 million.

Sir David said: "What we have to do is to make some changes to revitalise profitability. That can change the shape of certain parts of the business. A number of our businesses will continue to have global coverage and global aspirations. Others may be more specialised, more localised, more discrete to certain areas or industries."

Brandon Gough, a non-executive director and former chairman of Coopers & Lybrand, has become deputy chairman.

Warburg's new executive committee for its investment banking business is made up of Sir David, Michael Sargent, a board director and head of securities, Colin Buchanan, global sales head, Edward Chandler, who had responsibility for Warburg's Dutch and Nordic region business, and Mark Nicholls, joint head of corporate finance. Mr Buchanan, Mr Chandler and Mr Nicholls are to join the Warburg board.

Sir David said he greatly regretted the departure of Lord Cairns.

He said that, under the circumstances, he was pleased to be able to return to full-time investment banking. He is likely to stay in the job for at least two years, hoping to turn its performance around before looking for a chief executive and chairman. He is expected to give up some of his directorships which include the Bank of England, BT, GEC, London First and the BBC.

Photograph, page 1  
Pennington, page 25  
Loss of sparkle, page 27



The meeting that led to Lord Cairns's resignation was held at Warburg's Broadgate offices

## Two more leave in Mulcahy revamp

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE boardroom bloodbath at Kingfisher, the troubled retail conglomerate, continued yesterday with the abrupt departure of two more executive directors.

Nigel Whittaker, corporate affairs director, and Tim Breene, director of strategy, are to leave after a head office review. A total of 40 out of 100 jobs at the group's London headquarters are to be axed.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, said that the move was aimed at giving greater power to the retail subsidiaries rather than simply cutting costs. The move is expected to generate annual savings of about £5 million.

The development will once again throw the spotlight on corporate pay. Mr Whittaker and Mr Breene were both on three-year rolling contracts and could receive combined payoffs of more than £2 million.

Their departures come less than three weeks after the ousting of Alan Smith, the former chief executive, and James Kerr-Muir, who was finance director.

Analysts believe that the latest changes make the break-up of the group more likely. One said: "If they are going to devolve power in this way, then people will be even more convinced there is going to be a break-up."

Sir Geoffrey vehemently dismissed such claims, saying that the group centre still had an important role to play. He also denied the existence of a rift between himself and Mr Whittaker. The two have worked together for 17 years, but Mr Whittaker was increasingly seen as a supporter of Mr Smith.

Mr Breene was recruited only last April to head the group's strategy unit. The team is now being dismantled and Sir Geoffrey will resume control of group strategy.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	3081.1 (-28.8)
Yield	4.24%
FT-SE All share	1518.85 (-11.00)
Nikkei	18313.85 (+22.51)
New York	3843.45 (+4.38)
Dow Jones	481.50 (+0.13)
S&P Composite	481.50 (+0.13)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	6% (5%)
Long Bond	8% (8%)
Yield	7.65% (7.6%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6% (6%)
Life long gilt	100% (101%)
Libor (3m)	7.5% (7.5%)
STERLING	
New York	1.5632* (1.5635)
London	1.5632* (1.5635)
DM	2.3764 (2.3777)
FF	3.2280 (3.2280)
SF	2.0059 (2.0075)
Yen	154.18 (154.32)
£ Index	75.5 (75.8)
DOLLAR	
London	1.5206* (1.5190)
DM	1.2835* (1.2823)
SF	96.62* (96.80)
Yen	62.5 (62.6)
TOKYO CLOSE YEN 98.97	
Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.50 (\$16.70)
Gold	\$374.25 (\$375.55)
* denotes midday trading price	

## Insurance date

Direct Line's new cut-price life insurance arm opens for business tomorrow, thus promising further grief for an industry already tottering under the weight of galloping public discontent and tighter regulatory demands. Page 24

## Heavy fall

Shares in Misy's fell heavily after the business software maker agreed to pay a hefty £212 million for ACT Group, its struggling rival. Analysts said Misy's shareholders fled because of the expense of the deal and concern over ACT's past performance. Page 25, Tempus 26

## Producer prices fuel fears of rate rises

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday faced more evidence of rising price pressures in industry even as demand on the high street appears to be weakening.

Producer prices charged at the factory gate rose by 0.9 per cent in January, pushing the annual rate of output price inflation to 3.4 per cent from 2.8 per cent in December, according to the Central Statistical Office. This was higher than the City had expected and the news undermined the gilt market amid fear that interest rates may head higher again in coming months.

At the same time, the CBI distributive trades survey showed high street demand weakened in January, with sales volumes falling to a slightly lower level than January 1994.

The latest economic news comes just over a week after interest rates were raised for the third time since the recovery began. The Bank of England noted in last week's Inflation Report that, without the last two interest rate increases, it would have predicted a rise in inflation to the upper half of the Government's target range. However, the monetary tightening since November had "improved the prospect of achieving the lower half of the target range by the end of the present Parliament".

Nevertheless, the authorities will be watching to see whether the pressure on manufacturers of higher raw materials costs eases — some commodity prices have weakened in recent weeks — or whether demand weakens further.

If this were to happen, the authorities may not need to react to the rise in output prices already seen. However, if prices continue to rise, the authorities may need to act, probably through higher rates.

Michael Saunders, of Salomon Brothers, said that the main pressure on prices was coming from strong demand

for British goods abroad, not at home, and that a stronger pound, rather than higher rates, would be most effective. But he noted that the Government's political difficulties make it hard for "sterling to levitate spontaneously".

About 0.4 per cent of the output price increase was due to excise duty increases announced in the mini-Budget in December. However, excluding food, drink, tobacco and petrol products, factory gate prices still rose by a seasonally adjusted 0.5 per cent in January and by 3.4 per cent over the past year. This is the highest rate for underlying output price inflation since November 1991.

Rising output prices reflect continuing increases in raw material costs and particularly commodities. The CSO said that input prices rose by 1.3 per cent in January, a rise of 11.5 per cent over the past year.

High street sales, page 24

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High street sales, page 24

High street sales, page 24

## Rank share options set to inflame executive pay row

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

RANK Organisation, the diversified leisure group, has poured fuel on the row over executive share options with the grant of another 1.4 million options shared out among its seven-strong executive board. The new options are not exercisable for three years, and under the terms of the company's scheme there is a further condition that earnings growth must also outpace inflation by 2 per cent over the same period.

But they were created a month ago, after the company's full-year figures, and are therefore based on the then share price on the stock market that was some 20p below the current price. Of the seven directors, four, including Michael Gifford, the chief executive, receive 208,840 new options apiece.

Several hundred other managers will also be granted an undisclosed number of fresh options. The grant was revealed in the formal document to shareholders accompanying Rank's sale of 40 per cent of its holding in Rank Xerox, the photocopy, to Xerox, its Japanese partner.

Mr Gifford defended the latest grant, the last under the company's ten-year scheme, due to expire soon. He said: "If management of companies make money out of options, then shareholders do — this aligns the financial interests of the management with those of the shareholders."

A new executive share option scheme, along the same lines of the existing arrangement, has now been created and will be voted on by shareholders at the end of this month.

Most of the directors have already seen substantial benefits from the earlier scheme. Six shared paper profits totalling £1.8 million from previously granted options at prices well below market price.

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Several hundred other managers will also be granted an undisclosed number of fresh options. The grant was revealed in the formal document to shareholders accompanying Rank's sale of 40 per cent of its holding in Rank Xerox, the photocopy, to Xerox, its Japanese partner.

Mr Gifford defended the latest grant, the last under the company's ten-year scheme, due to expire soon. He said: "If management of companies make money out of options, then shareholders do — this aligns the financial interests of the management with those of the shareholders."

A new executive share option scheme, along the same lines of the existing arrangement, has now been created and will be voted on by shareholders at the end of this month.

Most of the directors have already seen substantial benefits from the earlier scheme. Six shared paper profits totalling £1.8 million from previously granted options at prices well below market price.

## Coke tries Mind over Mango to defeat own-label brands

By JON ASHWORTH

COCA-COLA unveiled its latest weapon against own-label supermarket brands yesterday — a large, pink, logo-splattered mobile home. The customised van was parked on London's Mall to accompany the launch of a new range of mixed fruit drinks.

Fruitopia, which goes on sale in May, backed up by a £3.7 million advertising campaign, marks the latest attempt by Coca-Cola to expand away from its core brands.

The van, a resprayed Recreational Vehicle dubbed The Fruitopia, will visit shops and supermarkets to draw attention to the new fruit range, aimed at the adult market, and sold under catchy names such as Mind Over Mango and Banana Vanilla Rapture.

Coca-Cola claims the product is a hit in America, where it made its debut last summer.



The British version has been modified to suit local tastes after extensive market research — although one suspects a visit to a typical high street store may have played a part. Fruitopia, sold in 500ml bottles, bears a suspicious resemblance to Snapple, one of the most popular of a variety of so-called New Age drinks that play to a young, health-conscious audience. It will sell for between 79p-99p.

Fruitopia bottles are plastered with Green imagery, using

aboriginal emblems built around three key symbols — mind, body and planet. The label promotes the use of natural ingredients and lack of preservatives, but health freaks expecting a pure juice product are in for a shock. The average juice content is only 10 per cent. The rest is water, flavouring, citric acid, and sugar.

Coca-Cola is unrepentant, claiming similar fruit drinks have just 5 per cent juice on average. Jane Webb, new brand development manager for Coca-Cola Great Britain, hailed Fruitopia as "hip" and "upbeat" — adding "it's not so much a product, it's an attitude".

Officially, the launch is about growing the £6 billion a year UK soft drinks market. Research suggests people will drink 80 per cent more soft drinks by the year 2000, and Coca-Cola wants to hold its own in an expanding arena.

Dear John,  
Bless you for arranging my heavenly  
4.64% fixed rate mortgage. I am eternally grateful.  
Yours faithfully,  
A Bishop

John Charcol's latest mortgage rate of just 4.64% (4.8% APR) will come as an answer to many people's prayers. Fixed until July 1996, it's available for both purchases and remortgages of up to 70% of the property's value. And we can provide up to 95% loans at a slightly higher rate. Miraculously, there are no compulsory insurances, and the full range of repayment options is open to you. For guidance and a written quotation, call John Charcol without delay on (0171) 611 7000, or Leeds (0532) 470338. Or drop in and see us at 10-12 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DD.

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Typical Example: A £42,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £160,000 repaid over 25 years assuming completion on 15/02/95, 300 gross monthly repayments of £162.39 assuming a fixed rate of 4.64% (APR 4.8%) until 17/7/96 and further assuming the variable base mortgage rate remains at 4.64% after the initial fixed rate has expired for the remainder of the term. In practice the variable base mortgage rate will fluctuate. The total amount payable will be £39,488.27 (calculated to include £295 arrangement fee, non-refundable reservation fee of £25, £117.50 legal fee, £169 application fee (including valuation) and £90.77 accrued interest). Limited funds available. Loan subject to status. Loans are subject to the type and value of property. Additional security may be required in the form of a mortgage indemnity guarantee. Written quotations available from John Charcol Ltd. Credit broker fees of up to 1% of the advance may be charged depending on the type of product and credit period. John Charcol is a licensed credit broker. Be sure you can afford the repayments before entering into a credit agreement.







□ Scholey shows his style □ Fair exchange of landing slots is no robbery □ Foster's floating dilemma

## The war wounds of Warburgs

□ SG Warburg tried to pretend it was business as usual after its merger talks with Morgan Stanley collapsed. In fact, the untidy affair was a body blow to the bank and compounded the battering it has received in the bond markets. In a business as carnivorous as investment banking, it did not take long for Warburg's rivals to start circling its carcass, picking off its top earners.

If Lord Cairns had been more politically astute he would have known his career at Warburg was finished the moment that Morgan Stanley backed off. Rightly or not, he was seen both internally and externally as the principal exponent of the merger plan, a plan that many regarded as a means of delivering Warburg up to Morgan Stanley on the cheap. Instead he stayed to try to plug the gap in the bank's earnings, and his demise has been all the more bitter for the two months he has clung to power.

Just as inevitably, the task of revitalising Warburg has fallen to Sir David Scholey, the safest pair of hands in the City. As the creator of Warburgs in its present form during Big Bang, Sir David should know if anyone how to mend it.

The City still hopes a bidder will emerge to put the bank out of its misery. But the list of potential buyers is short and none has so far stepped forward. Un-

doubtedly the speed of Warburg's deterioration would have deterred bidders. The value of an investment bank rests in its goodwill and that can disappear fast when the goodwill is walking out of the door. Deutsche Bank only declared its interest in Morgan Grenfell after John Craven had turned the bank around and demonstrated the strength of its franchise.

Sir David has already demonstrated his management acumen in the group's statement yesterday. To begin with he has drafted in a new generation of Warburg men to run the bank. Until recently Colin Buchanan and Edward Chandler, aged only 41, were two of the bank's rising stars. Yesterday they shot heavenwards as directors of the group and members of the new investment banking committee charged with pulling the bank out of the mire.

But Sir David has made it clear that the promotions will not end there. There are more board appointments to be made, so anyone who is being headhunted will think twice before quitting. The investment banking com-

mittee will have to decide what Warburg's future is. Clearly its attempt to cast itself in Goldman Sachs's mould was flawed, since the bank does not have the capital resources or global franchise for that. Further cuts look inevitable, particularly of empire-building operations such as Tokyo. On the trading side, Warburg should concentrate on its core franchise in British and European equities. By cutting other losses, the underlying profitability of the advisory business should re-emerge. Reports of Warburg's death have been exaggerated. But its convalescence will not be an easy one.

### Bureaucrats stack over Heathrow

□ BRITAIN'S Civil Aviation Authority is the most pro-competitive in the European Union. But it operates in a stifling climate of bureaucratic dirigisme. That may explain its half-hearted proposals to the European Commission to aid competition at Europe's most congested airports, notably Heathrow.



On the positive side, the CAA argues that the black market trade in landing slots between airlines should be allowed officially. This would recognise that airlines have conditional "leases" on the slots they operate, an idea the Commission does not like. The CAA rightly argues that the trade should be transparent, so that prices, reputed to start at £1 million a time, would have to be disclosed. But it rejects an open auction on the paradoxical, but perhaps realistic ground that this would spawn more bureaucracy. Only if "exchanges" were made in an open market would outsiders believe that they were not fixes between the big players. In any case, the CAA sees "exchanges" as a sideshow to the

main event. That would consist of one set of bureaucrats operating a complex system of priorities set by other bureaucrats to allocate a pool of new and vacated slots to airlines wanting to compete with incumbents on busy intra-European routes.

Doffing its hat to Brussels, the CAA says it is "axiomatic that the EC, national governments and their competent authorities must determine these principles". Why? An open market both for available slots and those that existing airlines were prepared to trade would set market rents for congestion and allow market forces to set the priorities.

True, such a system would favour the strong, as markets do. But it would also increase the trade. In particular, it would encourage ailing flag carriers to treat their marginal slots as assets that could be sold to help finance restructuring, rather than hold on to them to stay big. By establishing cost differentials, it would also encourage airlines to use less congested airports, such as Stansted.

The objection, it seems, is that open auctions would favour in-

cumbents protecting cosy duopolies. Competition authorities should take care of that. No more meddling is required.

### Reluctantly Courageous

□ THE great days when flamboyant Australian businessmen followed the example of their political leaders and said what they thought are sadly lost in the Dreamtime, so Nobby Clark's update on prospects for Courage was unavoidably bland.

But Foster's is now well and truly snookered in its bid to sell out, frustrated by a combination of bad luck, over-cautious potential buyers and ill-timed interference by the British regulatory authorities. The profits improvements in the interim figures are impressive but clearly unsustainable beyond March 1998, when the agreement to supply the 4,350-strong pub estate of Intreprenuer, its joint venture with Grand Metropolitan, runs out.

The two well-publicised potential buyers, Whitbread and Scot-

tish & Newcastle, must be delighted that they have so far delayed the deal's consummation. If it had been signed before the OFT's decision last week to go back and examine the tie, it would have looked a disaster: instead, whatever the outcome of the OFT inquiry, they should now be able to negotiate a lower purchase price if they go ahead.

Foster's is instead weighing up the prospects for a float for Courage in London. The group should appreciate that these look poor indeed. The company, with its one big but temporary contract, resembles poor Ushers of Trowbridge, the small regional forced to pull its float last year. Instead Foster's could be forced to fall back on its least attractive policy option, to do nothing, and Courage could remain in Australian hands for a while yet.

### Curse of the bigwigs

□ LORD King of British Airways became involved with Aerstructures Hamble which nosedived a few months after rising off the stock market runway. Now the former gas regulator, Sir James McKinnon, has repeated the story with the equally obscure Eurovein. Note for investors: view each new issue on its merits, and never mind which Big Name has been appointed to give it added lustre.

## Misys shares drop after £212m deal to buy struggling ACT

By ERIC REGULY

SHARES in Misys fell heavily yesterday after the business software maker agreed to pay a hefty £212 million for ACT Group, its struggling rival.

Misys shares closed at their low for the day, down 14 per cent, to 360p from 409p. David Greenall, a Smith New Court analyst, said Misys shareholders fled because of the "expense of the deal and some concern that they're buying a company that has not been performing well".

Misys's offer of 300p in cash and 2.2 new Misys ordinary shares for every 10 ACT shares values ACT at 120p per share, or 57 per cent more than the share price on Friday. The offer represents a multiple of 22 times projected earnings for the current financial year.

Mr Greenall said the price was all the more questionable because Kevin Lomax, Misys chairman, said Misys was not looking for a US acquisition

because multiples were too high. "Clearly, now is not the time to expect great opportunities there," Mr Lomax said.

He defended the price, saying the combined group, with almost £300 million in turnover, making it one of the world's biggest software developers, would have a large and stable client base of 1,700 customers. Most are banks which, he said, tend to stick with their old suppliers. "It's very rare for a bank to chuck out a software system; it's like changing the engines on a 747 in mid-flight."

Misys also believes that it will be able to turn round ACT's British operations, which suffered from a significant jump last year in research and development costs and product-launch delays. The problems triggered two profit warnings, one in June, the other late last month.

Roger Foster, 54, ACT's

founder and chairman, said January's dismal trading statement triggered the takeover talks. The two companies had held informal merger talks for almost two years.

Misys will close ACT's Midlands headquarters but expects few redundancies. Combined employment will total about 3,600.

All of the ACT directors, including Mr Foster, will leave the board. Mr Lomax said ACT's directors, who are on two- and three-year rolling contracts, will be paid off. He said the costs will be "substantial", but declined to give details. Mr Foster said he had no immediate plans to go back into business.

Mr Lomax said the new group will concentrate on selling banking software in high-growth areas such as China and India.

Tempus, page 26



Misys directors Strone Macpherson, left, Kevin Lomax, centre, and Ross Graham

## Pearson buys 10% of Hong Kong television group

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PEARSON, the media conglomerate that publishes the *Financial Times*, has acquired 10 per cent of Hong Kong's Television Broadcasts (TVB), one of Asia's leading television companies, for £108 million.

The purchase, which is subject to approval by the Hong Kong Broadcasting Authority, will create a powerful alliance representing a growing threat to international broadcasters, such as The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, and Ted Turner's Cable News Network.

Both Pearson and TVB, which produces 5,000 hours of television drama a year and owns a vast programme library, yesterday said the deal would help them to expand further into the region.

As a first step, the two groups said they were entering into a joint venture with the *Hindustan Times*, one of India's largest newspapers, to produce and syndicate TV programmes for the Indian market. The new venture will draw on the expertise of

Thames Television, which is wholly owned by Pearson, and TVB, which has a vast studio complex in Hong Kong.

Greg Dyke, chief executive of Pearson Television, said the deal opened up valuable opportunities in some of the fastest growing television markets in the world.

He said: "The only way to expand in different television markets is to make programmes in the local language for the tastes of the people who live there. The experience of American television companies in Europe shows that there is no such thing as cultural imperialism when it comes to TV: it simply does not work."

Pearson has acquired its holding from Shaw Brothers and the Shaw Foundation at HK\$31 (£2.57) per share. After the sale, Shaw Brothers, which said it would realise a HK\$563.5 million profit from the sale, will have the biggest stake, with 24 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

### Asda may import to beat NBA

ASDA, the supermarket group, is considering importing books from abroad in a bid to bypass the Net Book Agreement and cut prices on bestsellers (Susan Gilchrist writes).

Last week, the group cut up to 20 per cent from the prices of a dozen popular paperback books but was forced to reverse the decision after legal action by leading publishers.

Yesterday, an Asda spokesman said: "We broke the NBA because we are very determined to get better-value books in our stores. It didn't work that time, but we are not going to let it end there."

Asda is looking at several options including importing bestselling books from markets such as the US and Australia which are not subject to price regulation.

## Courage serves up a better half

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

COURAGE, Britain's second biggest brewer, lifted income paid to its Australian parent by 17 per cent in the second half of last year in spite of the tough conditions in the British beer market and the rise in the value of the Australian dollar.

Foster's Brewing Group, owners of Courage, highlighted the figures from its British operation with its own interim report for the six months to December 31. There was no indication of plans for Courage, which Foster's has indicated it wants to sell. Courage expanded profits before interest payments to \$511.8 million, or £56 million on the exchange rates used by Foster's. In pounds sterling, the rise was 24 per cent. In a falling beer market, Courage raised volumes by 2.4 per cent on a market share of 19 per cent.

On the future of its British brewing operations, Ted

Kunkel, the chief executive of Foster's, said: "There are complexities which require very careful consideration and no decisions have yet been made."

Negotiations to sell Courage are thought to have stalled, however, even before last week's announcement from the Office of Fair Trading of a further inquiry into the ties between big brewers and their pub estates.

The 50 per cent-owned Intreprenuer pub chain turned in a £10 million profit, against a £19 million loss last time.

Foster's saw an A\$7 million reduction in after-tax profits in the first half to A\$204 million, after a \$47 million fall in one-off earnings to A\$2 million. Operating profits were up by 26 per cent to A\$225 million.

Pennington, this page

## Eurovein delivers warning

By MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

EUROVEIN, the specialised engineering company chaired by Sir James McKinnon, stunned the City with a profit warning yesterday, less than three months after its shares were floated.

The shares slumped to 86p, from 137p, compared with November's offer price of 141p, as dealers swiftly responded to the company's statement that large prospective orders were taking longer than expected to convert into firm orders.

Albert E Sharp, the stockbroker that sponsored the share offer, quickly lowered profit forecasts to £1.5 million before tax from a previously expected £2.4 million for the current year and from £3.6 million to £2.85 million for the



McKinnon: consulted

following 12 months. The flotation raised £13.5 million and capitalised the company at £23.2 million. By close of business yesterday, the value was reduced to £14.15 million. Bill Eastwood, chief executive,

said: "It is not a matter of orders being lost; they have been postponed." The underlying business was sound, he added. The orders, principally from Eastern Europe and the Far East, could be expected to materialise at a later date.

At the time of the flotation, the company said that sales and order intake for the lower margin equipment business were running lower than in the previous year and it was this part of the business that continued to be affected.

However, sales and orders for spare parts and consumable products were satisfactory and in line with budget. As a result, dividend policy was not likely to be altered after the profit warning.

Sir James was fully consulted about the statement, a spokesman said.

## Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Business Customers

### BUSINESS OVERDRAFTS

Band	Monthly Rate	Eqv. Annual Rate
A†	0.98%	11.76%
B	0.90%	10.80%
C	0.81%	9.72%
Unauthorised	2.00%	24.00%

### BUSINESS SAVINGS

PREMIER INTEREST ACCOUNT†	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %
£250,000+	5.60	5.75
£100,000+	5.40	5.54
£25,000+	4.90	5.01
£10,000+	4.60	4.70

### BUSINESS LOANS

Band	Monthly Rate	Eqv. Annual Rate
Standard**	1.02%	12.24%
Preferential**	0.85%	10.20%
Small Business Loan Standard	1.12%	13.44% (APR 14.2%)*
Small Business Loan***	1.02%	12.24% (APR 12.9%)*

### BUSINESS MORTGAGES

Band	Monthly Rate	Eqv. Annual Rate
A	1.02%	12.24%
B and C	0.85%	10.20%

BUSINESS CALL ACCOUNT	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %
£250,000+	4.20	4.28
£50,000+	3.95	4.02
£10,000+	3.70	3.76
£1,000+	3.40	3.45
Below £1,000	3.00	3.04

CLIENTS CALL ACCOUNT	HALF YEARLY OPTION		MONTHLY OPTION	
	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %
£1,000,000+	4.85	4.91	4.80	4.91
£100,000+	4.65	4.70	4.61	4.71
£10,000+	4.15	4.19	4.11	4.19
£2,500+	3.60	3.63	3.57	3.63
Below £2,500	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	HALF YEARLY OPTION		MONTHLY OPTION	
	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %	GROSS RATE %	GROSS CAR %
£1+	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25

†Standard and A Bands have been merged.

\*The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/securities charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.

\*\*Also applies to Farm Business Loans. \*\*\*Also applies to Farm Small Business Loans.

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This notice lists current rates.

GROSS RATE - the annual interest rate.

GROSS CAR - compounded annual rate when full monthly or half-yearly interest remains invested. Business Call Account and Premier Interest Account assume interest paid monthly.

††No interest is paid on balances below £10,000.

These rates of interest will apply with effect from 14 February 1995



THE THOROUGHbred BANK.

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS



**The Rank Organi**

Saatchi & Saatchi dipped to 107p after falling at the first hurdle in its attempt to prevent former chairman Maurice Saatchi from forming his own company and

Source: Datastream

In the futures pit, the March

Britton Group .....	132p (+85)
High-Point .....	43p (+12p)
Body Shop .....	185p (+6p)
Flying Flowers .....	101p (+5p)
Wensum .....	140p (-2p)
Bnt Data Mgmt .....	195p (-8p)

since the rebels declared a 14 per cent interest on day one. In the event, the company called on the loyalty of the British institutions to back the refinancing and they have

To Burford's credit it has done what none of the previous owners managed: to find a use for the cavernous space at the top of the center. This

Spain	1.5610-1.5120	Amstar El Power	31%
Sweden	7.4089-7.4188	Amstar Express	31%
Switzerland	1.2812-1.2815	Amstar Genl Corp	30
		Amstar Home Pr	69%
		Amstar Intl	103%
		Amstar Stores	34%
		Amstar Tech	42%
		Amoco	58%
		Anheuser-Busch	59%

### OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5623-1.5649
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Gap Inc. Del.	32%	32%	Phizer	81%	81%
Gen. Dynamics	33%	34%	Pheonix Dodge	56%	55%
Gen. Electric	45	44%	Phillip Morris	61%	61%
Gen. Mills	52%	52%	Phillips Pet.	32%	32%
Gen. Motors	60	59%	Pitney Bowes	33%	33%
Gen. Motors	40%	39%	Polaroid	29%	28%
Gen. Reinsurance	127	129%	PriceCostco	13%	14%
Gen. Signal	35%	35%	Procter & Gambl	65%	65%
Genuine Parts	38%	38%	Provident	34%	34%
Georgia Pac.	73%	74%	Pub. Serv. E. & G.	28%	28%

Hot Steel	2,700	Rail Back Steel	2,700	Chicago-Pennrose	62%
Hot Steel	34,000	Sainsbury	2,200	Columbia Gas	25%
Marmah Cstl	406	Schroders	36	Compag Comp	36%
Marble Wire	7,700	Scott & New	743	Comp Ass Int	55%
Madbury	2,000	Scott Power	932	Covena	33%
Maradon	1,600	Sears	3,800	Covena	54%
Marathon Cms	742	Serv Trent	267	Coca Edison	27%
Marathon Union	1,500	Shelf Trans	2,100	Coca Nat Gas	36
Marshall	100	Slobe	086	Cooper Inds	39%
				Cooper Inds	39%

McDonnell	34	54	Transamerica	33	33
McGraw Hill	69	68	Travelers	38	36
Mead Corp	53	33	Triform	53	54
Meadronic	38	37	Tyco Labs	48	46
Mellon Bk	36	35	UST Inc	30	30
Merrill Corp	37	37	UAL	98	97
Metric Inc	33	32	USX Marathon	16	15
Merrill Lynch	39	39	Unicom	25	25
Minnesota Mine	52	52	Unitherm NV	117	118
			Union Carb	67	68

Series	Calls			Pats		
	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
d Dom. 500	31½	39	50	7½	16½	21

LIFE OPTIONS									
	Series	Calls			Puts				
		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct		
AA	450	21	—	—	9	—	—		

	Series	Calls			Puts				
		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep		
Abbr	Nas	450	24	35	37	6	14	18	

**Cash:** 6<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>%  
**Treasury Bills (Dis):** Buy: 2 mth 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; 3 mth  
                                     1 mth         3 mth  
**Fund Bank Bills (Dis):** 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>         6<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>%  
**Bidling Money Rates:**         6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>         6<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>%  
**Prime:**                         6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>         6<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>%  
**Overnight open 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, close 6.**

Low 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Week fixed: 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> :	
. Sell: 2 mth 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> ; 3 mth: 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> .		
3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> - 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> - 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> - 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> - 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> - 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> - 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> - 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> - 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

Pakistan rupee	47.70	Bank of NY	32.
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7975-5.9235	Bankers Tr NY	61.
Singapore dollar	2.2669-2.2699	Barnes Banks	43.
South Africa rand (fir)	6.1425-6.1778	Bosch & Lomb	33.
Swaziland rand (com)	5.3361-5.5421	Brauer Ltd	29.
Tanzania shilling	5.6779-5.8015	Becon Discount	51.
U A E dirham		Bell Atlantic	53.
Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank		BellSouth	99.
		Black & Decker	29.

Hilton Hotels	69%	69%	Salomon Inc	47%	47%
Home Depot	48%	49%	Santa Fe Pac	36%	37%
HomeStar Mng	15%	15%	Sara Lee Corp	28%	29%
HomeWell	36%	35%	Seacorp	16%	16%
Household Int'l	40%	40%	Schering Plough	78%	78%
Houston Inds	38%	39%	Schlumberger	53%	54%
Huizama	24%	24%	Scott Paper	75%	75%
ITT Corp	95%	95%	Seagram	30%	30%
Illinois Tool	43%	43%	Sears Roebuck	47%	47%
Imco Inc	72%	72%			

Broke..	160	14%	17	22	0	3%	7
P/d	180	0%	6	11%	6	13	17
Disc..	330	10%	20%	31%	0%	12%	17
Q	360	0%	13	18%	15	29%	33%

January 13, 1985 Tel: 35572 Call: 16006  
 1986 FT-SE Call: 6957 Put: 6619

198	122	93	66	44	38%
199	146	115	99	67%	46%
200	160	125	104%	62	48%

	Eastern Op	700	10%	45	58%	29	43%
(704)	750	0	23%	36%	46	58%	73%

Series Mar Jun Sep Mar Jun Sep							
Natl Pwt.	460	34	36%	45	14%	22%	
(N77%)	400	4	16	25	26%	36%	
Sec Pwt.	330	12%	25%	30%	0	13%	20%

Yreka	2,190-2,196
Yuba	1,568-1,568
Yreka	10,390-10,420
Yuba	8,210-8,240
Yreka	11,570-11,600
Yuba	154.04-154.51
Yreka	16.69-16.74
Yuba	2,000-2,000

0.18-0.26ds	0.43-0.56ds
0.08-0.05pr	0.19-0.17pr
1 <sup>+</sup> -1 <sup>+</sup> pr	3 <sup>+</sup> -2 <sup>+</sup> pr
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ramona	1,700	Tomkins	2,300	Dover Corp.	99%
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ISC	1,700	Vodafone	8,300	Dresser	20%
anson	7,100	Waburg	3,600	Duke Power	38%
3	2,300	Wellcome	2,000	Dun & Street	50%
scape	2,500	Whitbread	1,400	Du Pont	54%
ingfisher	1,500	Wilks Fld	405	Eastman Kodak	50%
				Easton Corp	47%

AT&T	70%	70%	Wal-Mart Stores	23%	23%
NTL Industries	11%	11%	Warner-Lambert	70%	80%
Norfolk Energy	5%	6	Wells Fargo	157%	180%
Northern	44	43%	Westinghouse El	14%	14%
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Nitin State Pwr	45%	45%	Whirlpool	52%	52
Newport Corp	24%	24%	Whitman	17%	17%
Nynex Corp	36%	38%	Winn-Dixie	53%	53%
Occidental Pet	19%	19	Woolworth	15%	15%
Ohio Edison	70%	71%			

Oracle Systems	45	49%	Wespey (wms) Jr	45%	49%
Orys Energy Co	11%	11%	Karna	100%	100%
			Yellow Corp	20%	21%

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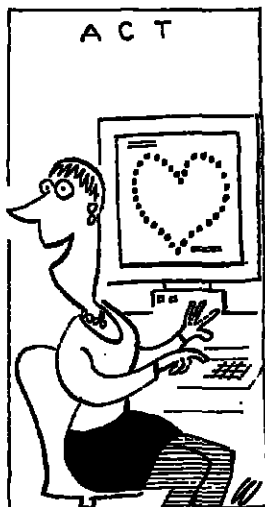
## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Holmes away at CLL

JOHN HOLMES, head of UK sales at Credit Lyonnais Laing, has, I'm told, resigned. His exit from CLL, after three years with the firm, took place on Friday and follows, so I am also told, what has been a period of strained relations with some of those at the top. City friends speak well of Holmes, 51, who has a sense of fun, and is known as "Holiday Holmes" because of his love of golf. He established Hoare Govert's New York office in the early 1980s, headed up Morgan Grenfell Securities in London, and then worked for Morgan Stanley. At one stage, Holmes planned with his friend Peter Quinnen — until March 1990, chief executive of James Capel — to set up their own research company, but although they raised £5 million, it did not take off. He then moved to CLL. After a career like that, Holmes is unlikely to be on holiday for long. His replacement as UK head of sales at CLL is Peter Benka.

### What a picture

IT'S not true that anybody nominated as the *Guardian's* Young Business Man of the Year fades away, never to be heard of again. John Ashcroft, the *Guardian's* 1987 man, who left Coleridge Group in 1990, has been studying in Manchester for a PhD, which he hopes to complete this year, and has been pursuing his passion to illustrate dry economic information in easy-to-understand/quick-to-absorb picture form. *The Economic Picture Book*, a quarterly publication at £145 a year, rolled off the presses yesterday.



"It's a Valentine from Misys."

### Bank at war

A BLACK and white photographic exhibition illustrating how the Bank of England coped during the war years 1939-45 opens on Thursday and runs until March 31 at the Bank's museum, entrance free. The pictorial history shows how the Old Lady's staff ate, exercised, worked, defended, and were even decontaminated, while in the vaults — but there are no pictures of any of the Governors wearing gas masks. Also, the riddle of how everybody found working space alongside all those gold bars remains a secret. "We have many vaults," is all a 1995 spokesperson will say.

### Caught young

NATWEST (Worcester Park branch), keen to offer financial planning advice, has caught in its net Kate Finn, daughter of Central Statistical Office Press officer Mike Finn. Kate, has been told by letter that "a regular review of your financial situation is strongly recommended" and she has been invited to make contact. Mike is confused. Kate is only seven years old, and as far as he is aware, her total disposable income is just 35p a week and is invariably spent on lemonade and ice lollies.

COLIN CAMPBELL

# New-style coal firms out to make money by cleaning up

Councils are looking to open-casting to create country parks from dereliction, says Ross Tieman

Mention coal mining, and the average Briton conjures up images of grimy faces beneath miners' helmets, pit winding gear and slag heaps.

Yet so great was the contraction of the industry in the first half of this decade that the businesses transferred to the private sector last December have fewer than 20 deep mines between them. Although the distribution of coal reserves ensures that more than half of production still comes from deep mines, most mines in Britain's new private sector coal industry are open-cast pits producing half a million tonnes or less each year. This will have far-reaching consequences, both industrial and social.

Open-cast pits usually offer production costs well below the world market price of coal. A private sector regime, in which high employment is a cost, rather than a political bonus, will tend to favour development of open-cast reserves rather than deep mines.

Since open-cast sites, typically, have a life of only three to seven years, while deep mines may stay in production for a century or more, the new owners of Britain's coal industry have acquired a great many short-life assets. In ten years' time, the owners of the industry will be those with economic deep mines, and companies that are successful in winning planning consent for open-casting.

How much of an advantage will existing open-cast operators have when seeking consent?

Winning planning permission for new open-cast coal mines is not going to be easy in the green-tinted Nimby Britain of the 1990s. Few homeowners want a monster hole in the ground at the bottom of their garden, or lorries rumbling past their doors to remove several million tonnes of dusty rock.

Yet local authorities can ill afford the poor publicity from allegations that protecting the backyards of well-behaved voters has cost the jobs of 150 or so electors per pit who are already working in the industry.

The resolution of these contradictory pressures may well hinge on a third factor: derelict land reclamation.

For historic reasons, many of Britain's biggest open-cast reserves are beneath areas of industrial dereliction. That is because Britain's industrial revolution began where coal outcropped naturally. Early miners followed the drift underground, while their customers built steelworks, acid plants, coke works and other related factories on the surface. When easily exploitable reserves were exhausted, successful mine owners sank shafts into new areas of the same deposits, to tap them at greater depths, establishing Britain's deep mine industry.

Open-casting began as a wartime response to coal shortages. Using bulldozers to remove the over-burden



Cast off: windsurfers in action on a former open-cast site at Pugney's Country Park, Wakefield

where coal once outcropped, contractors scooped up the fuel left behind by the inefficient drift miners. Draglines became bigger, and British Coal, although essentially committed to deep mining, began to open-cast in the countryside, in an effort to balance employment and produce profits.

In recent years, environmental considerations have made it easier to win planning consent for open-casting on derelict or contaminated sites left by the closure of early coal-related industry. Mining the coal requires removal of contaminated soil; profits from coal mining provide the funds for restoration.

As Bryan Riddleston, chief executive of Celtic Energy (which bought British Coal's South Wales assets), points out, the core skills of Britain's open-cast coal companies lie entirely outside mining. Mineral extraction is done for them by contractors such as Wimpey, Taylor Woodrow and Ames.

What the coal companies possess is three specialist skills. They know about coal marketing. They have learnt to identify extraction sites and obtain planning consent from local authorities. And — crucial to obtaining that

consent — they have developed great expertise in land restoration.

British Coal Opencast had an admirable record in taking polluted sites, extracting the coal beneath them and restoring them as industrial sites, country parks or farmland. Increasingly, local authorities will be looking at open-casting as a means of achieving their land reclamation goals. Reclamation skills and experience will become crucial to obtaining mineral extraction consents.

When Mr Riddleston, an accountant by training, became head of British Coal's open-cast operations in South Wales seven years ago, output was 1.1 million tonnes a year. In the year to April, production is likely to top 3 million tonnes. Since 1988, Mr Riddleston has built what is now Celtic Energy into a business with 160 direct employees, 1,500 or so contract miners, and annual sales of about £140 million. Last time British Coal revealed a profit figure for the operations, it was comfortably over £25 million a year.

The key to Celtic's success in increasing output has been collaboration with

local authorities. In two cases, local authorities have given themselves planning consent to extract minerals and appointed British Coal, now Celtic, as their contractor.

The best-known case is the East Merthyr Restoration Scheme. In a three-phase project, Celtic is engaged in reclaiming 800 acres of derelict land, some of it adjoining homes. As part of the current phase 2, Celtic will be responsible for diverting a trunk road, upgrading it to a dual carriageway, and providing access to new industrial development sites and recreational land. Local knowledge, contacts, landholdings and markets are crucial to this process. For that reason, the new open-cast companies may find it difficult to expand into each others' areas.

The best opportunities may lie overseas. Huge areas of the former East Germany and the northern Czech Republic are blighted by open-cast and associated workings, while industrial contamination is common in Poland, the former USSR and elsewhere. British reclamation skills, self-financing from coal extraction, may find a ready market there, especially if the going gets tough at home.

## Kohl grapples with problem of pit subsidies

Colin Narbrough looks at divisions over propping up Germany's coal industry

The centre-right coalition of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, is holding crucial talks today on how to finance the billions of marks of subsidies that still prop up Germany's uneconomic coal industry.

German hard coal mining played a key role in the country's post-war economic miracle and employed 600,000 workers at its peak in the late 1950s. Although that has contracted to 100,000, the workforce remains about ten times the size of Britain's privatised coal sector.

Although German coal costs four times as much as that available on world markets, Germany, with no oil and gas riches to match those of other North Sea economies, has persisted with generous subsidies.

The strong anti-nuclear lobby in Germany has also helped to foster continued reliance on coal-fired electricity generation.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, recently observed

“Coal mining played a key role in the economic miracle”

that the federal Government was faced with prospect of paying DM100,000 per miner next year to keep the pits going. This raised the question whether such support could be justified in terms of energy, regional or Budget policies, he said.

Regional elections next Sunday in Hessen, and more importantly, in North Rhine Westphalia, which includes the Ruhr, Germany's coal and steel heartland, have made the coalition's subsidy talks a highly sensitive political issue.

As the Government combed its expenditure for possible cuts after the post-unification ballooning of the public deficit, subsidies of DM7.5 billion a year that go to support coal for the power industry naturally came under scrutiny.

But a December court ruling, that the 8.5 per cent levy electricity consumers must pay to support native coal was unconstitutional, increased the pressure on the Government to change policy. The court gave Bonn until the end of this year to switch to an acceptable system.

The Government had already decided to cut the annual subsidy to DM7 billion from next year, with further unspecified cuts due from 2000. It is also seeking to reduce its share of the DM3 billion annual subsidy to native coking coal for the steel industry from two thirds to a half.

Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats want the support regime to continue, but their coalition partners are keen to wind it down. Coalition talks last week failed to produce agreement on either the coal levy, or on the support German steel-makers are required to make for coking coal.

The Christian Democrats have proposed that a new energy tax could be used to finance progress towards a range of energy policy targets, including continued support for coal mining.

Their coalition partners, the Free Democrats, the most ardent advocates in the Cabinet of free-market policies, and the Christian Social Union, the strongest supporter of nuclear energy, have argued against the new tax. Rudolf Scharping, leader of the opposition Social Democrats, who now control the upper house of the German parliament, last week threatened to delay this year's Budget unless financing for the coal industry was secure. While Herr Waigel has voiced concern about the impact the continuation of heavy subsidies to coal would have on his programme of consolidating public sector finances, figures out yesterday revealed that government deficits were reduced by 28 per cent in the first three quarters of last year to DM95.5 billion.

Intimately related to the issue of coal subsidies is the wider question of Germany's competitive position on the world market. Environmentalists, who have a powerful political voice, have blocked and delayed expanded use of nuclear energy, the alternative much favoured by industry.

Herr Kohl's political style has been typified by letting problems smoulder. But with Bonn's European partners successfully extracting themselves from costly native coal in Europe's inter-linked energy market, he may soon be forced to put the writing on the wall for Germany's coal mines.

## Patricia Tehan charts the crisis at SG Warburg

# City jewel loses its sparkle

Until December, SG Warburg was the jewel in the crown in British merchant banking — the closest thing we had to rival global giants such as Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and Salomon Brothers.

Since Big Bang in 1986, Warburg had become the City's pre-eminent integrated investment bank, aiming to provide a one-stop shop for financial services. It intended to compete globally, while making the most of its European traditions and strengths.

Now the firm has been plunged into crisis. Where once confident, some might say arrogant, voices echoed around its Finsbury Avenue offices, now there is only anxious whispering about what the future holds, as each day brings fresh news of dismissals and defections.

Events reached fever pitch this weekend. Board directors were summoned to an emergency meeting at the firm's Broadgate offices. There, Lord Cairns, the chief executive, accepted responsibility for the firm's failed merger talks with Morgan Stanley, a US-based global investment bank, and subsequent loss of some of its key staff, and resigned.

The collapse of the merger talks in December left Warburg with an uncertain strategy and unsure of its future. There has been constant stock market speculation, naming Warburg as a takeover target.

Lord Cairns lost the confidence of his staff and, as one director put it, when the football team is not performing, the manager has to take responsibility. The crisis escalated last week when ten of Warburg's key corporate finan-



Curricula vitae from Warburg staff are said to be on the desks of City firms

ciers jumped ship to join Deutsche Bank's new investment banking business.

Warburg is now faced with the task of identifying key staff and teams it cannot afford to lose. Rumours abound of pay rises, extra bonus incentives and guaranteed bonuses. The difficulty Warburg faces is finding a way to pay for them. Yesterday, along with Lord Cairns's resignation, the bank issued a profits warning, saying that the difficult market environment had continued to have an adverse effect on investment banking results.

Until recently, Warburg has not found any great difficulty in holding on to staff. In the year to March 31, 1994, its wages and salaries bill, including performance-related bonuses and deferred pay provisions, was £422.7 million, taking total staff costs to £469.9 million — an average of £105,000 per person.

Some argued that Lord Cairns should have resigned

when the Morgan Stanley deal failed. He made the approach to Morgan Stanley and led the negotiations, assisted by Nick Verrey, chairman of Warburg's banking business. He sold the idea of the merger to staff and to shareholders as enabling Warburg to leapfrog the competition and accelerate its strategy of becoming a global integrated investment banking group within five years.

When the talks failed, Warburg was left in the embarrassing position of having admitted it needed a partner to achieve this ambition. A few days later, Peter Twachmann, the Warburg director who jointly ran a loss-making bonds business resigned. His joint head, Peter Bass, left last month. Warburg has now pulled out of eurobonds, with the loss of 180 jobs. The move, and increased talk yesterday by Sir David Scholey, the chairman who has taken over the chief

executive's job, of the need to curb costs, has fuelled fears that more jobs will go.

Lord Cairns attempted to restore stability at Warburg two weeks ago. He restructured a reporting line put in place last October, taking day-to-day control of operations away from Mr Verrey and Derek Higgs, chairmen of its banking and broking businesses.

The move was not dramatic enough. Warburg has 300 directors of its various business units. They were increasingly dissatisfied. Warburg CVs are rumoured to be piling up the desks of other City firms.

That Lord Cairns stayed on for another two months is proof of his standing at Warburg and in the City. While his reputation has been dented, he is thought unlikely to be in the job market for long.

The task facing Sir David is to restore Warburg's credibility among staff and clients and restore its investment banking operations to profitability.

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E = dividend; P = Middle price; . No significant data









**THEATRE page 32**  
Strictly Entre Nous: a new play delves into the complex personality of W.H. Auden

# ARTS

**FESTIVAL page 33**  
Clement Attlee's time capsule offers a unique insight into everyday life during the 1940s



**VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the Hayward's tribute to gifted and tragic Yves Klein; plus other new London shows**

## Shocking blue unfaded by time

Of all the spectacular shocks delivered by modern artists, perhaps the most dramatic occurred on a March evening in 1960. At ten o'clock, a hundred smartly-dressed guests arrived at the luxurious Galerie Internationale d'Art Contemporain in Paris. Few of them could have guessed at the astonishment in store. Any suspicions they may have harboured were hushed as the members of a small string orchestra entered with three singers. Their solemnity was impeccable as they sat down, at the side of a large stage area covered with fresh white paper, and waited for the proceedings to begin.

The air of decorum did not last long. True, Yves Klein wore a tuxedo and white tie when he came in and bowed. But as the orchestra started playing his *Monotone Symphony*, the audience gasped.

A trio of nude women, each carrying buckets of blue paint, walked to the centre of the stage. Obeying Klein's instructions, two of them smeared their bodies with paint and then pressed themselves repeatedly against a large paper sheet hung on the wall. By adopting different positions and climbing pedestals, they covered the pristine surface with a rhythmic sequence of images. Then the third woman was dragged across the stage, her equally splattered body besmirching its whiteness with arabesques of colour.

Klein, like a conductor, directed each movement with precise arm gestures. But the audience's attention was monopolised by the nudes. Their brazenly exposed and pigment-stained flesh, combined with the smudges and splashes left in their wake, incensed many of the spectators. Outrage dominated reaction to the event, especially when the press published photographs and blew it up into the ultimate art scandal.

Klein himself cannot have been surprised by the furore. He had, after all, aroused controversy before, with his well-promoted exhibitions of all-blue paintings and sponge sculptures. But the 1960 performance ignited an outbreak of hostility far more vehement and widespread than anything he had provoked earlier. He found himself branded a publicity-seeking charlatan. And when Gualtiero Jacopetti sensationalised the body-painting event in his film *Mondo Cane*, Klein was so upset by the distorted editing that it contributed to his first heart attack. He died only a month later, aged 34, and

plagued by the belief that his work had not been treated with the seriousness it deserved.

No such accusation can be levelled at the organisers of Klein's retrospective at the Hayward Gallery. A film of the notorious 1960 performance is relayed on a screen, certainly. But it is confined to a discreet corner of a large room, where monumental paintings executed during similar body-painting sessions command our attention.

Watching the film, I was struck by the disarming propriety of the event rather than its legendary shamelessness.

The nudes all move with conspicuous delicacy, even though they rub themselves against the paper in a sensuous way.

More like a well-rehearsed ballet than a spontaneous happening, it is orchestrated so rigorously that everything takes on a grave, ritualised character.

One eyewitness, the artist David Medalla, was reminded of prehistoric cave-paintings, and Pierre Restany's critical text on the invitation to the 1960 performance claimed that Klein's bodyprints had a 40,000-year kinship with the anonymous handprints found on the cavernous walls at Altamira and Lascaux.

Klein would have warmed to these connections. Like many 20th-century innovators, he wanted to purge art of anything that threatened to compromise its essential potency. He aimed at distillation, but without sacrificing immediacy. The body-paintings at the Hayward present the simplified imprints of torsos with primal directness, at times reminiscent of figure-carvings as ancient as the swollen-bellied Venus of Willendorf. They heighten our awareness of physical experience, and present it in frieze-like images with a religious aura.

Alongside his urge to expose human bodies in all their nakedness, Klein was guided by a strong spiritual sensibility. Growing up in Nice, he became acutely receptive to the sky's uninterrupted blueness. One day, lying on a beach, he decided to focus on the infinity of the colour stretching far above him. It appealed to the meditative side of his complex temperament, and led quite logically to the moment, in 1949, when he made his first monochrome paintings.

It happened in London, where the 21-year-old Klein was working in a frame shop. The sight of pure, unmixed pigments fascinated him, and he decided that their piercing



"A commitment to absolute abstraction": *Untitled Shroud Anthropometry* (above) is a famous example of Yves Klein's combination of a naked woman and body-paint, as in the notorious anthropometry display in Paris in 1960 (top); Klein, with blowtorch, composes one of his fire paintings

intensity should somehow be preserved and celebrated in his own paintings.

That is why the first rooms at the Hayward are devoted to canvases of a single colour. The superb installation, one of the finest I have seen at the gallery, brings out their remarkable luminosity. Klein became convinced that "there is a living world of colour", and these monochromes cleanse our vision so successfully that we seem to be experiencing greens, purples, and violets as if for the first time. Most are far smaller than his later paintings, but even the most modest canvases sing out forcefully from the walls. Nothing impedes their singleminded concentration on the potency of undiluted colour, apart from one unusually wide picture, where the expanse of orange is disrupted, in one corner, by Klein's intertwined initials and the date: May 1955. However delicate his handwriting may seem, it still upsets the

equilibrium of the painting as a whole. Working with rollers rather than brushes, he eradicates individual mark-making in favour of a more impersonal reliance on the allure of colour itself.

Although plenty of painters have explored this avenue since then, Klein's pioneering commitment to absolute abstraction still looks strikingly pure and thorough-going. It has a serenity quite at odds with his reputation as a scandal-monger, proving that stillness and limpidity were his fundamental qualities. With a steady certitude surprising in one so young, he then decided to discard every colour save one. His strongest affinity had always been with deep ultramarine, and so he dedicated himself to the patented lustre of International Klein Blue.

The roomful of blue paintings at the Hayward provides the show with its most absorbing space. A lesser artist might easily have descended into monotony, but each picture

possesses a character of its own. Using dry pigment on synthetic resin, and relying on wood as the support for his plaster or fabric, Klein gave the paintings a very tactile presence. They tempt us to touch the ridges running through them like the uneven surface of a dark, enigmatic planet. One of the most memorable is a cluster of painted blue rods, suspended from the ceiling like rain lancing through space.

Later on, Klein experimented with images that included traces of real rain, as well as wind and plant forms. He called them *Cosmogonies*, and hoped that their reliance on natural forces would give his work an even greater sense of inevitability. They look oddly hesitant and tame, however, compared with the work when Klein imposes his own will. A reconstruction of the *Forest of Sponges*, first installed at the Galerie Iris Clert in 1959, is far

livelier. The sponge sculptures, saturated with his trademark blue pigment, spring up from their stone bases with an unexpectedly playful swag. They reminded me of Miro, and prove that Klein's purist obsession with unalloyed colour was the work of a man also prepared to deploy a quirky sense of humour. Teasing plays its part in his celebrated *Leap into the Void*, the performance piece that provides the exhibition with its impulsive subtitle. Although we know that eight sturdy members of Klein's judo club caught him in a tarpaulin, the cleverly doctored photograph shows Klein jumping unsupported from the ledge of a building. It resembles a suicide leap, even if Klein displays all the agility of a highly respected black-belt judo teacher. But the zest with which he propels himself into space seems more positive than despairing. Caught by the camera at the moment when he appears to rise in the

air, Klein looks buoyed up by the wild hope that he might float gravity and fly.

Viewed with hindsight, *Leap into the Void* may seem to provide a grim foretaste of his premature end only two years later. Klein, however, harboured no deathwish. He probably drove himself too hard, and conveyed in his fire paintings a fascination with destructive forces. Even so, the point about his experiments with a flame torch, when he burnt charred and smoking images into the lava-like surfaces of his panels, lies ultimately in their power to transform.

Throughout all the multifaceted strands of his brief yet inventive career, Klein pursued renewal rather than extinction. On the evidence of this lucidly ordered survey, he managed to turn the most transient of moments into lasting images.

Yves Klein: *Leap into the Void* at the Hayward Gallery, SE1 (0171-929 8800), until April 23

### AROUND THE GALLERIES

TERRY SMITH has made a literal intervention into the Adam Gallery by cutting the converse or reverse imprint of a pillar out of the wall in the corner. The top of a column in one corner is affectionately and painstakingly delineated while another architectural detail is carefully drawn, but placed across the wall in the other room. The white paint that covers the pebbledash wallpaper of this quiet, unassuming gallery is disrupted only by this patently hand-made intervention, and the piles of rubble that lie beneath. Adam Gallery, 62 Walcott Square, London SE11 (0171-582 1260) until Feb 25

FILLED with the expectation of performance, subsumed with the soft promise of inevitable escape: the interiors, curtains, lighting and "ambiance" of the proper big screen are brought to you by Bridget Smith's huge colour photographs. Light plays upon the uniform folds of mauve, blue and yellowing velvets and satins to make shallow seas of contrast. Screen curtains at the Empire, Odeon and Curzon cinemas have been photographed straight on. Frills and ruffles of pelmet and flounce build up to frame a vision of anticipation, while light picks out a rhythm of empty chairs. Entwistle, 37 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-499 5795) until March 18

THE most straightforward of the "4 Projects" is by Fiona Banner, whose handwritten word-for-word account of the lunar landing in 1969 makes an effective silent sound-piece, and whose storyboard of the same moment steers us compellingly through the experience. Most of the works, though, are visually unwarding, and function rather like puzzles. Frith Street Gallery, 60 Frith Street, London W1 (0171-494 1550) until March 4

GEOFFREY RIGDEN'S paintings are an accumulation of experience. Layers of understanding about early Modernist painting seem to build up a sense of assurance and confidence that lies, not so much in a display of the activity, but in the result. His pictures are small and self-contained and carry no obvious reference to actuality or continuity elsewhere. Instead of appearing to be pastiche they function fundamentally. *Cavafy* is a spare black painting reminiscent of topographical works, in which the view shifts round and up from the front. There are also a number of constructions that have a reality which lacks the excellent level of illusion in the paintings. Francis Graham Dixon Gallery, 17-18 Great Sutton Street, London EC1 (0171-250 1962) until March 11

SACHA CRADDOCK

**DANCE: A new talent goes half-way**

### Come-to-bed lies

BUNTY MATTHIAS comes with an impressive CV. Trained at the London School of Contemporary Dance, principal dancer with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company in New York; stints with choreographer Twyla Tharp and film director Spike Lee. With Doris Saatchi as her company's patron, she has the right connections — witness three sold-out shows at the South Bank last weekend.

But what about the work? Does her new piece, *You Want My Want*, deserve its considerable hype?

The answer is — not yet. With a first half that establishes Matthias as a choreographer possessed of some stimulating ideas, and a second half that finds her descending into a safety net of generic step-building, *You Want My Want* fails to sustain itself as an evening of accomplished dance-making.

The ingredients are designed to please a subject-matter that explores sexual greed: music (including a commissioned score from Soul II Soul producer Jazzy B) with a funky coolness; costumes (from trendy outfitters New RenaisCance) that hide nothing.

We are in a flesh market, where sampled moans of sexual pleasure and projected images of erotic arousal set the scene. Dancers (three men and four women) exude narcissistic self-absorption, caressing their own bodies, luxuriating in the awakening of each muscle, readying themselves for the sex act.

The movements are both graceful and primitive: dancers crouch in a kind of animalistic sexual expectation; pelvises are thrust skywards in crude poses; the partnering is rough and impersonal. The monochromy of the silvery costumes, so tight they could be spray-painted on to the dancers' bodies, suggests

the participants are as cold as metal, their suits of armour protecting them against emotional involvement. The brightly coloured rubber banners that link them imply they are no bondage, but there are no apparent victims in these couplings. Everyone knows what they want, and everyone appears to be getting it.

By the second half, though, choreographic invention is not so clear. The performance poet Etua Baker (a voodoo priestess, a Matthias alter ego?)



Bunty Matthias: does not capitalise on her strengths

delivers a fractured, repetitive rap monologue about power and desire. The performers, including Matthias, cover more space than before. The choreography starts to flow; the partnering is more supportive; the sexual connotation less blatant. The sustained streetwise energy of the dancers is impressive, but the steps themselves have a deadening familiarity — the lifts predictable, the spiralling turns and intermittent jets as regimented as a classroom exercise.

Still, failing to capitalise on her own strengths is not such a sin for a 30-year-old choreographer who has just made her "third serious piece". Let us hope that time and experience will now bring her ideas into sharper focus.

DEBRA CRAINE

**CONCERTS: Expert interpretations of a symphony and chamber music by Shostakovich**

### Learnt from a pupil

Philharmonia/  
Sanderling  
Festival Hall

ONE CANNOT but be struck by the contrasting stage presences and musical sensibilities of Kurt Sanderling and Mitsuko Uchida: he all urbane craginess, she the embodiment of feline grace. When I last heard them together in concert, last June in Brahms's First Piano Concerto, it seemed to me that there was an unbridgeable — or at least unbridged — gulf between them.

That the gulf is not unbridgeable in the right repertoire was proved in Sunday night's concert by the Philharmonia (in fine form) under Sanderling, in which he was joined by Uchida for Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 2. Uchida's playing was as exquisitely poised, as sensitively attuned to nuance as ever. But this time Sanderling was on the same wavelength, accommodating himself to the pianist's delicacy with a genial reading of Beethoven's early concerto.

Not that Uchida's playing is ever remotely spineless. Indeed, with its rhythmic tautness and crispness of phrasing it has an underlying strength that enabled sparks to be struck off Sanderling's similarly alert accompaniment. The close of the Adagio brought them together in a ravishingly conjured atmosphere of spell-binding stillness.

Geniality is hardly the

timbre returns at the close of the Allegretto third movement of the Shostakovich, where the toyshop sounds have a distinctly less friendly quality. In the Adagio finale, the quotations have become a Wagnerian fate motif, and a yearning fragment from *Tristan and Isolde* that spirals into insouciance on each appearance. As the symphony drew to its close, Sanderling and his forces perfectly caught the sense of passion transmuted into serenity, of acceptance of the buffeting of a life soon to be transcended.

The earlier concert offered two works by Ustvolskaya given by members of the Philharmonia under the capable baton of James MacMillan: the Symphony No 5 (*Amen*), in which a reciter (Brian Cox) plangently declaims the Lord's Prayer against a spare, elegiac background provided by five solo instruments, and the Composition No 2 (*Dies Irae*), receiving its British premiere, which sets eight double basses against a piano and the ubiquitous plywood cube.

Both works are austere in the extreme: barely intelligible, although undeniably impressive, utterances from one of the most rigorously ascetic composers active today.

BARRY MILLINGTON

### Taking a golden bow

Borodin Quartet  
Wigmore Hall

SOME ensembles fade into complacency with age. But 50 years after its founding the Borodin Quartet — seemingly a perpetually self-renewing organism (only Valentin Berlinsky, the cellist, remains from the original line-up) — still plays every piece as though it were newly discovered. On Friday, in the last of three celebratory master concerts at the Wigmore Hall, the quartet devoted itself to music by its compatriots.

The opener was Borodin's Second Quartet, the quartet's natural calling-card whose *Notturmo* movement is also that famous tune from *Kismet*. If, over the years, the group might have become weary by this exotic number's charms, no such thing showed itself in this glowing and immediate account. In fact the entire work glowed, the quartet's rich tone and wide range of colours going hand-in-hand with clear phrasing and balance.

That comes, no doubt, from the fact that the quartet exercises itself not just with Shostakovich's demandingly spare quartet textures but also with such music as Stravinsky's Three Pieces of 1922. These are *tart*, terse gestures, the first, *Dance*, an ever-revolving four-note tune heard over a drone and an

ostinato bass, the next, *Eccentric*, a hunching little comedy act inspired by a sight of the clown Little Tich in performance, and the last, *Chant*, a severe and solemn incantation. The placement of every tiny inflection has to be exactly right; and here it certainly was.

The Borodins turned to Shostakovich after the interval, although not to one of the quartets for which they have done so much. Instead, the pianist Eliso Virsaladze joined them for the Piano Quintet, Op 57, of 1940.

Here the relationship between the two principal parties was dynamic, helped not least by Virsaladze's sheer strength and depth of sound, and by a commitment measured, sometimes, with a slightly distracting grunting noise. No matter. Whether in the neo-Baroque opening Prelude and the slow, severe Fugue which follows, or in the galloping exuberance of the Scherzo and that typically double-edged finale, this was again music-making that really counted.

STEPHEN PETTITT



THEATRE: W.H. Auden and Tennyson get the life-and-times treatment with diverse results

## Poetry in double motion

Strictly Entre Nous  
BAC, Battersea

Halves of a whole: Dudley Sutton and Rupert Holliday-Evans sharing the role of the riven writer Auden

YEARS ago I conceived the idea of writing a one-man play about W.S. Gilbert, a curmudgeonly wit who has never had adequate recognition as a dramatist. It was to open on the day of his death, and consist of lots of reminiscence and funny one-liners, punctuated by snippets of patter-song and (for he died rather heroically) ending with a bit of uplift. I even had an actor pencilled in for it, though I never spoke his name by telling him so: the admirable Timothy West.

An evening with W.H. Auden at the BAC leaves me thinking God I did not assay anything so depressingly conventional. Nobody has yet fully cracked the problem of dramatising a writer's "life, times and loves" — to quote the subtitle of *Strictly Entre Nous* — but Vince Foxall tackles it with imagination and verve enough to shame his competitors. He, too, begins and ends on the day of his subject's death, and keeps a rough chronological hold on his life; but that is all his play has in common with the plodding and then-and-then of most theatrical biographies.

The very opening wryly signals that we will get something different. Dudley Sutton's pithy Auden trudges into a dreary-looking hotel room, mumbles something into the phone, puts on his dark glasses and exits, upon which the house-lights come up, as if for a vast premature interval. The audience titters nervously, as, after a longish pause, the actor returns via the auditorium to a podium at the side of the stage. He starts to address what he tells us is the Austrian Literary Society in dry, sardonic style. Meanwhile, on comes a fresh-faced Rupert Holliday-Evans as the youthful Wylan, and we are under way.

The gains of casting two actors as one writer, and especially this very

even writer, are considerable. Young Auden can be articulately appalled by what he is becoming, and elderly Auden, who feels he has lost his professional and personal powers, can talk evocatively and angrily back. Each can also effortlessly inject supporting roles: dim father, eccentric headmaster, effete Oxford don, Christopher Isherwood and assorted other

lovers and loves. And every now and then dialogue can escalate into poetry, usually bits unfamiliar to me.

It is snappy, sometimes hectic stuff, which at first makes too many demands on the audience's wits. But that is a welcome fault in this genre. Again, the actors could do more to acknowledge Auden's dark side, and Sutton his physical dereliction as he smoked and

slobbered his way to his end. But by then we have seen plenty of evidence of his precociousness and preciosity, his confusions both professional and private, his capacity for mockery and self-mockery, his feelings of failure and futility. The dramatic scraps and snippets add up to a man.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Verse and worse

Dark Glory  
Nuffield,  
Southampton

whether to wed an innocent child or a voluptuous temptress. He decides instead to grow a beard and marry a woman of determined Christian faith. Both seem unwise, but one cannot be sure.

Patrick Sandford sages all this on a mysteriously spongy floor which might represent the Lincolnshire fens or the uncertain skin of our phenomenal world. Running water is

regular sound-effect, but there is no telling what this means either. The finally-married Alfred visits Hallam's tomb to the accompaniment of distant waves, but you have to read in the programme that this location inspired "Break, Break, Break, on thy cold grey stones, O Sea!"

Gooch does not discover a theatrical expression for young Tennyson's uncertainty other than to show him doggedly determined in the face of setbacks. Nicholas Gleeves looks dourly handsome, and it is good to hear well-known lines spoken in dialect instead of a poetry recital's RP. But

where the workings of the imagination are concerned, how much better to have seen him pacing the stage and muttering "Dark and dismal! Dim and dismal! Dank! Drear! Dark and doleful!" instead of receiving the phrases perfectly shaped as from internal dictation.

Likable performances are provided by Guy Scamblay's indulgent Charles, Abigail Crutenden's Emmie, and Zena Walker as a fussily indulgent Mrs. T. But their shifts of behaviour are often as thinly motivated as those of Alfred. Making people reach positions because literary history says they did is no substitute for enabling us to feel the how and why.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ROCK: Soft start to an unsettling experience

## Good thrashing

Throwing Muses  
Empire, W12

their recordings, is in marked opposition to anything expected. Sounds were cranked skywards, their mixes fuzzy around the edges. Narciso's drumming never really altered — always precise, martial, daunting — but there was a real transformation in Hersh. Her voice became cracked and strangled and her lyrics all but drowned by the volume of the band. The emphasis

shifted to something that is frightening as opposed to the merely sinister.

For the most part, this was an oddly paced show, disturbed by intervals during which Narciso fixed his drum stool and Hersh told anecdotes about her youngest son, Ryder. A well-humoured audience laughed appreciatively at all this, bantered for requests and generally waited for normal

service to resume. In the Muses' case, this has never meant rock poses, segued songs and middle eights. Performance for them has more to do with creating some palpably unsettling experience that speaks beyond the confines of a song.

This was signalled most successfully, towards the concert's last quarter, by a series of songs beginning with *Flood*, taking in *Mania*, *Carnival* and *Snakeface*, and ending with *Hook In Her Head*. Pulsating with brute energy and rudimentary melody, Hersh's delivery accentuated a series of speeding rhythms. These were brave moments of a potency not often witnessed.

LOUISE GRAY

## LONDON

**DESIGN FOR LIVING** Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico in *Design for Living* for the transfer of Sean Mathey's award-winning Dorset production of Coward's marriage à trois comedy. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5055). Preview begins tonight, 8pm. Opens Feb 20. £5

**CELL MATES** First night of previews for *Cell Mates* and Stephen Fry as Sean Bourke and George Blake, the very odd couple together in *Wormwood Scrubs* and *Moscow*. Simon Gray directs his own play. Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-380 1700). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Thurs.

**ZORRO — THE MUSICAL** Opening night for the musical swashbuckler of comic legend, returning to twist his cape in Ken Hill's latest (and sadly last) musical romp. Theatre Royal, Gilly Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; male Mar 2, 3pm and Mar 11 and 18, 3pm. Until Mar 18. £5

## ELSEWHERE

**BAGNOR** The famous tale of a fond schoolmaster, Geoffrey Hughes, adapted for the stage by Norman Coates, with Roger "Old Habits" Hume in the lead. A seven-week tour follows.

**BEARING FRUIT** Deborah Polke directs live short plays by women. The authors are Helen A. Smyth, Helen Edmundson, Laurie R. King, Meredith Oakes and Sara Sugarman. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-222 0311). Now previewing, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm. £5

**THE CLAUDELINE MARRIAGE** Nigel Hawthorne plays the disaffected Lord Ogilvy and directs a strong cast in this gothic comedy about a 19th-century great, snobbish and true love. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. male Sat, 2.30pm.

**THE DANCE OF DEATH** Strindberg's impressionist, sometimes comic, view of marriage as hell. Suite characterisation by Gemma Jones and John Weir. Alcega, Alcega St, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm. male Sat, 4pm. £5

**DAUGHTER CORNER** Keith Barker directs an excellent cast in *Daughter Corner*, a play about the life of a woman in a psychiatric hospital who is a writer. In this gothic comedy about a 19th-century great, snobbish and true love. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. male Sat, 2.30pm.

**THE DUCHESSE OF MALFI** With Juliet Stevenson as the wicked heroine and Simon Russell Beale her sadistic brother, this production (by Philip Francis) promises to be electrifying. Greenwich, Greenwich, SE10 (0181-856 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; male Sat, 2.30pm. Until Mar 25. £5

**IN EASTER** Strindberg's drama of shame, self-pity, passion, delirium, joy in nature and the love of a young woman. Kettle's Yard, E2 (0171-638 6851). Tonight, 7.15pm. £5

## NEW RELEASES

**DALLAS DOLL** (18) Goli Guni Sandra Bernhard directs the play about a woman who is a writer. In this gothic comedy about a 19th-century great, snobbish and true love. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. male Sat, 2.30pm.

**HEAVENLY CREATURES** (18) Strindberg's drama of shame, self-pity, passion, delirium, joy in nature and the love of a young woman. Kettle's Yard, E2 (0171-638 6851). Tonight, 7.15pm. £5

**SOLITAIRE FOR 2** (18) Body language lecturer pursues archaeologist with ESP. Andrew Gower directs. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. male Sat, 2.30pm.

**STAR TREK GENERATIONS** (PG) Talky but acceptable film debut for the stars of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Patrick Stewart directs. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. male Sat, 2.30pm.

**FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL** (18) Mike Newell's smart comedy about Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. male Sat, 2.30pm.

**THE GREEN ROOM** (18) The film about the lives of the stars of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Patrick Stewart directs. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. male Sat, 2.30pm.

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## ENTERTAINMENTS

**CINEMAS** CURSON PHOENIX Phoenix St, O1. Ching Ching Rd, 01-399 1721. (on Ching Ching Rd) VANTIA ON 42ND STREET (U) Reg. 12.45. (on Ching Ching Rd) Reg. 12.45. (on Ching Ching Rd) Reg. 12.45.

**CARAVEL** THE GREEN ROOM (18) The film about the lives of the stars of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Patrick Stewart directs. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. male Sat, 2.30pm.

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## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kite Anderson

Westminster (01835 4044) Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. male Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. £5

**BIRMINGHAM** Matthew Barnett is the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's guest conductor tonight and Thursday for a programme of Mozart and Bruckner, while the Novello Philharmonic appears between the two with works from Richard Strauss, Shostakovich and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Arnold Katz conducts. If you are instead more in the mood for big-band, high-energy dance numbers, then don't miss Hot Stone Shuffle, the tap sensation now on tour. Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 2300) CSD: tonight and Thurs, 7.30pm. Novello: Wed, 8pm. Alexandra, Suffolk Street (0121-643 1231). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; male Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

**BRIGHTON** Tennyson Donnelly takes over from Ron Moody as the classically Hook in Peter Pan. The British Musical, a version written, composed and directed by Peter Copley-Robinson. Brighton, Brighton, BN1 (01273 555 555)

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Nicola Stapleton is the boy who never grows up, start of a national tour after Christmas in the West End. Theatre Royal, New Road (01273 354949). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. male Thurs-Sat, 2.30pm.

**NOTTINGHAM** Opera North opens a week of performances here with John Tomlinson directing and taking the lead in Verdi's rarely performed last opera, *Otello*. Matthew Warburton directs another long-neglected piece, William Walton's *Troilus and Cressida* and a marvellous *Tosca* features two appearances as well. Theatre Royal, Theatre Square (0115 422555). *Otello*: tonight and Sat. *Tosca*: Wed and Fri. *Troilus*: Thurs. All at 7.15pm. £5

**LONDON GALLERIES** Barbican: Impressionism in Britain (0171-438 1111). British Museum: Chinese Arms and Armour, until Wed. Modern Gallery (0171-438 1555). Courtyard: Frank Dobson. Sculpture (0161-1554 (0171-438 1555)). Crafts Council: Furniture Today. Design and Craft (0171-278 7700). National Gallery: The Age of Elegance. Holbein: Portrait of Erasmus (0171-438 1555). Royal Academy: The Revival of the Palladian Style (0171-438 7438). Serpentine: Man Ray (0171-438 6075). Tate: New Displays (0171-438 6000). V & A: Women. Women. Photography and the Art of War (0171-335 6500)

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## LAW

● PUBLIC SERVICE? 39  
● LAW REPORT 39

# Fighting to the death for a place in chambers

Why are young barristers having to switch to becoming solicitors?

Sally Hughes investigates

Like the Irish and Ireland, for every barrister in practice in the Temple there are ten outside, singing about it. The Bar is littered with lost careers — the result of an oversupply of talented people for what, at its best, is a demanding, rewarding and high-status job. As opportunities for advocates open up elsewhere, Bar "rejects" are opting wholesale for the solicitors' branch of the profession.

The staggering attrition rate among newly qualified barristers is traditionally matched only by resting actors. It has intensified with a decline in the work of the "young" Bar, just when more, and better-trained, recruits are qualifying than ever before. About 750 Bar finalists in the class of '88 were whittled down to just over 400 tenants of chambers after two years' call. In recent years, more than 1,000 finalists have chased about 500 tenancies, competing with a growing band of "squatters" and the euphemistically termed "third six-month pupils". They, and the rest of the young Bar (tenants of one to five years' call), have endured an unprecedented fall in work, particularly in crime. Between 1991 and 1993, the average number of court appearances for all barristers declined from almost four to just over three a week.

After the introduction of the new Higher Courts Advocacy qualification for solicitors this summer, barrister transfers across the professional divide trebled.

Mark Hone, the head of the Law Society's Transfer Unit, says that if the trend continues, up to 240 will switch in the coming year, most of them from the "young" Bar.

The market for newly qualified solicitors is tough, and the experiential requirements of switching also load the dice away from inexperienced pupils. Far from just mopping up supernumerary squatters, amplification of the trend could seriously affect the future development of the Bar.

Switchers include significant numbers of junior tenants, recruited by firms for their advocacy skills.

Barristers with at least two years' post-qualification experience can apply to the Law Society for accreditation before taking the Society's Professional Conduct and Accounts Examination. They are joined by foreign lawyers seeking an English qualification. In 1994, applications from all sources rose by 300 to 915.

The roots of the malaise of the junior Bar do not lie simply in the reforms of the Mackay era. The institutional reasons are imbedded in a longer-term failure to develop a business structure and corporate ethos to match the modern world. Established practising barristers are typically overworked — to a pathological extent in some cases. Despite claims of numerical expansion at the Bar, it has not kept pace with the rate of expansion in the legal services sector generally. And recent expansion is offset by falling court appearances.

Most barristers' chambers are a collection of individualists for whom "strategic planning" sounds like preparation for a difficult cross-examination. There is no incentive to develop anybody else's career but their own. Inviting someone to join an established set is an ambivalent exercise, especially for the junior tenants, who will be competing with any newcomer for briefs coming in, via the clerks.

The Temple is rife with stories, particularly in these straitened times, of some of the best candidates being turned down precisely because of in-house competition. Nepotism still rules in some quarters. It was ultimately courageously acknowledged by Nadine Radford, a distinguished young criminal practitioner, at the 1993 Bar Conference, that many places in the Temple are blocked by middle-ranking deadwood, unshiftable because tenancies are, for practical purposes, for life.

Switching to the solicitors' branch, sneered at as an escape into unambitious, salaried security, has taken on a new meaning since the advocacy reforms. Growing numbers of disillusioned young barristers have watched their practices languish as senior colleagues consolidate the available work into even more overtime for themselves.

The prospect five years on looks like more of the same.



Sally Hughes outside the Law Society's headquarters: There is a malaise in the junior Bar

Pressures to streamline and simplify litigation, and to make the legal-aid fund go further, will fuel a market for cheap, low-level freelance advocacy, coupled with new demands for top-level specialist advice that the knockabout common law Bar is incapable of meeting. In the middle is a daunting experiential gap which only a few specialised chambers are willing to fill by training and developing careers long term.

Becoming a solicitor holds out the prospect of managing change — corporate and personal — and exerting a degree of control over one's professional environment in the context of a stable, developing career-structure.

● The author, called to the Bar in 1992, now works for Christian Fisher & Company, solicitors.

## When justice went Wilde

One of the classics of legal literature concerns the destruction by the legal process of a literary genius



Tonight is the hundredth anniversary of the first performance of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Four days after that opening night, on the afternoon of February 18, 1895, the eighth Marquess of Queensberry called at Wilde's London club and provoked one of the most disastrous legal actions ever to be commenced. Potential litigants should reflect long and hard on the fate of Oscar Wilde before authorising their solicitors to commence legal proceedings on their behalf.

The Marquess of Queensberry handed to the hall porter a card on which he had written, "To Oscar Wilde, posing as a sodomite", misspelling the final word in his fury at the friendship formed by his son, Lord Alfred Douglas, with Wilde. On receiving the card a fortnight later, Wilde sought advice from his solicitor, Charles Humphreys, on bringing proceedings for criminal libel. Humphreys advised: "If you are innocent, succeed." He instructed Sir Edward Clarke, QC, a former Solicitor-General, who accepted the brief only on being assured by Wilde that the charges were "absolutely false and groundless".

Lord Queensberry's solicitor was Charles Russell. On the advice of his father (Lord Russell of Killowen, the Lord Chief Justice), Russell briefed Edward Carson, QC, for the defence. Carson had been a student with Wilde at Trinity College, Dublin. When Wilde was told he would be cross-examined by Carson, he replied: "No doubt he will perform his task with all the added bitterness of an old friend."

The trial of Lord Queensberry on a charge of criminal libel opened at the Old Bailey on April 3, 1895. During his cross-examination by Carson, Wilde became over-confident. Carson asked about a young man called Walter Grainger, a servant at a house where Lord Alfred Douglas had rooms. "Did you ever kiss him?" asked Carson. "Oh, dear no!" Wilde replied. "He was a peculiarly plain boy. He was, unfortunately, extremely ugly."

Wilde wisely accepted Sir Edward Clarke's advice to withdraw the prosecution, because the jury was certain to find in favour of Lord Queensberry, and because of the need to protect Wilde from damaging evidence about his sexual preferences which would make criminal proceedings against Wilde inevitable. The trial judge, Mr Justice Henn Collins, wrote to Carson: "I never heard a more powerful speech or a more searching cross-examination. I congratulate you on having escaped most of the filth."

Instead of taking the opportunity to leave the country before he could be prosecuted, Wilde went to see another solicitor, Sir George

Lewis, who said he could do nothing at this late stage. "If you had had the sense to bring Lord Queensberry's card to me in the first place," Sir George explained, "I would have torn it up and thrown it in the fire, and told you not to make a fool of yourself."

Wilde was prosecuted for committing acts of gross indecency with various men. Clarke (and his junior counsel) offered to represent Wilde without a fee, an offer he gratefully accepted. The second trial — this time with Wilde in the dock — began at the Old Bailey on April 26, 1895 (Victorian lawyers would be astonished by the delays in criminal trials a century later).

The prosecuting counsel, Charles Gill, read out some of Wilde's letters to Lord Alfred Douglas and asked the defendant: "Do you think an ordinarily constituted being would address such expressions to a younger man?" Wilde replied: "I am not, happily I think, an ordinarily constituted being." He had formed a friendship (and no more than that) with various young men because he was "a lover of youth". The jury was unable to reach agreement, and so was discharged.

For the third trial (which began on May 22, 1895), the prosecution was led by Sir Frank Lockwood, the Solicitor-General. During the course of the proceedings, Sir Edward Clarke had caused to complain that the Solicitor-General had forgotten that "he is not here to try to get a verdict by any means he may have, but that he is here to lay before the jury for their judgment the facts". This time, the jury found the writer guilty of various acts of gross indecency.

Astonishingly, Mr Justice Wills told Wilde that "it is the worst case I have tried", and sentenced him to the maximum two years' imprisonment with hard labour. Wilde was released from prison in May 1897. Apart from *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, he wrote nothing of substance after his ordeal because, he explained, "my first year in prison destroyed me body and soul". Wilde died in Paris on November 30, 1900.

All of these extraordinary events are described by H. Montgomery Hyde in *Oscar Wilde*, first published in 1948 in the Notable British Trials Series, and recently republished by Penguin Crime in the Famous Trials series (£6.99).

It is ironic that the subject matter of one of the great classics of legal literature is how a literary genius was destroyed by the legal process. As the audience is told in Act 1 of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, "truth is rarely pure, and never simple".

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC

An Oxford professor attacks a report on 'recovered memories'. Frances Gibb reports

A fresh and blistering attack on the recent British Psychological Society working party report on "recovered memories" as "badly flawed" and "misleading" has been delivered by Professor Larry Weiskrantz, Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Oxford University.

Professor Weiskrantz, a prominent critic of "recovered memories", lists what he sees as the many weaknesses in the report published last month and says: "For a working party of senior standing dealing with such a serious issue, one might have expected a higher standard of analysis that would have displayed a transparent and studied neutrality about matters where evidence is lacking."

His article, in the latest issue of *The Therapist*, journal of the European Therapy Studies Institute, will fuel the

## Hypnosis inquiry fuels new debate

current debate on whether "recovered memories" of previously forgotten childhood trauma, such as child abuse, are reliable.

The British Psychological Society report found from a survey of more than 800 psychologists that a majority of the profession believed such memories were largely reliable, although they also said false memories could be implanted by poor therapeutic techniques.

A number of families in Britain are

claiming false accusations of sex abuse after an adult son or daughter's therapy and "recovery" of memories of childhood trauma. In Britain, the False Memory Society, set up by accused parents in 1993, is backing the first couple to sue a psychologist for malpractice.

The legal actions come in the wake of a law suit brought by Gary Ramona, a Californian executive who successfully sued two therapists whom he accused of implanting false memories in the

mind of his daughter. Several similar legal actions are pending in the United States.

The Home Office has issued guidelines that advise against the use of hypnosis to help witnesses to remember crimes. But the British False Memory Society maintains that these are being ignored.

There is thought to be only one criminal case so far in which the syndrome of "recovered memory" has featured: an accused father was recently acquitted of rape and indecent assault after a court was told that his daughter's account could have come from "phantom memories" induced by counselling.

● Recovered Memories (£10) from the British Psychological Society, 0533 549 568.

## Who needs London?

MR Justice Parker, a High Court judge, is out to sell the advantages of local justice for cases that always used to come to London.

As vice-chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster, he will be spending nearly four months in the North of England hearing Chancery cases and has gone out of his way to let litigants and law-

yers know of the benefits of processing and handling there.

Senor Valentino

LOOKING for a lawyer to love this Valentine's Day? In *Brief* magazine has identified the perfect candidate. Her name is Senor Valentino, a 64-year-old Peruvian lawyer, has produced a brochure which includes pictures of himself in various states of undress, posing in the office, on a motorcycle and in court. However, says Mr Rojas: "In all of

them, I am wearing a tie and holding legal documents so customers will know I am a qualified professional."

Streetwise

TENANTS fed up with bad housing and being treated as second-class citizens can learn how to fight back. Lawrence Graham, a London law firm,

ment policies allow tenants to take back their streets."

● Lawrence Graham: 0171-379 0000

Tout rout

FROM this week, the law on ticket touting is tougher. Under the Price Indications (Resale of Tickets) Regulations, 1994, now in force, touts will have to disclose the face value of theatre and sports tickets on pain of prosecution.

Fuming

A MOTHER in New York has lost a custody battle over her two children because she smokes. The judge found that smoke caused the daughter to suffer asthmatic attacks, and held that the mother could be liable for neglect if she subjected her daughter to a smoky atmosphere.

Time up

AS Lord Woolf begins his two months of purdah to find solutions to the problems of costs and delays in the civil courts, he may regret that nobody implemented proposals put forward 13 years ago for shortening hearings. David



Lord Woolf: regret?

Freeman, now a consultant with D.J. Freeman, the firm he founded, wrote a paper for the Law Commission. Many of its proposals strike a chord with what senior judges are now urging: strict timetables for the stages of proceedings, backed with the penalties of costs when litigants fail to comply. Mr Freeman says: "I still believe in these ideas. They may be heretical and difficult, but if they were put into effect, cases might start to move."

SCRIVENOR

## NEW LAW JOURNAL

In the next issue ...

In *Scarcity and fair rents*, Professor Alan Prichard of Nottingham University goes back to first principles: just how does one assess levels of scarcity? he asks.

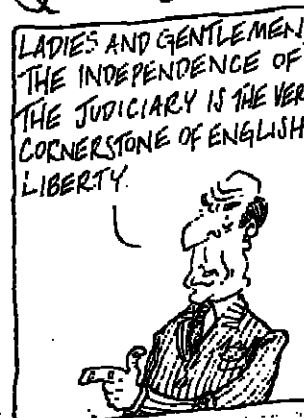
In *NLI* this week, you will also find the complete guide to *Running a lottery syndicate* by Dr Harold Wilkinson, including a precedent for a 'Lottery Syndicate Agreement'.

● Another step towards a right of privacy—solicitor John Gardiner reports on the decision against Central Independent Television.

● This Week's Practitioner section continues the *Complete Guide to Money Laundering* and includes the regular round-up of crime, tax and family law. Peter Hutchesson, *AN ER* editor-in-chief, reports on *Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department* and another, *ex p Khan*.

For a free sample copy of *NLI*, please call Mark Arnold now on (0171) 400 2955

## QUEEN'S COUNSEL





# HEAD OF TAX

## BLUE CHIP BANK

City

£150,000 - £200,000 Package

Renowned as one of the leading financial institutions providing an extensive range of banking and financial services, both domestic and international, our Client's continuing marked success is built on long-term, mutually profitable relationships with its clients.

Reporting directly to a main board director, a leading tax specialist is sought to head the Group's taxation department with responsibility for tax and fiscal control over the whole of the Group.

Responsibilities will include:-

- formulating and developing the Group's taxation policy;
- exploiting tax planning opportunities both within Corporation and Value Added Taxes;
- overseeing compliance in all aspects of Group Tax;
- ensuring the most tax effective advice is given on major transactions;
- advising key business units on the most tax efficient methods of structuring and doing business.

Already a partner in a major City law or accounting practice, ideally aged between 37-50 with a background in banking/international taxation, the successful candidate - lawyer or accountant - will have a corporate tax specialism with some expertise of VAT issues. Of crucial importance is a highly developed commercial awareness, a proactive and creative approach to tax issues and the ability to contribute at a strategic level.

With opportunities for further career advancement within senior management, the comprehensive package will fully reflect the quality and stature of the Group and include a performance bonus, share option scheme, non-contributory pension, loans and executive car.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Gareth Quarry or June Mesnie on 0171-405 6062 (0181-340 7078 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JF. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. Initial discussions can be held on a no names basis.



QUARRY DOUGLAS

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# REINSURANCE LAWYERS

Lovell White Durrant is a leading international law firm, providing a complete range of corporate legal services to major clients around the world.

- We are one of the pre-eminent litigation practices and our contentious reinsurance practice is expanding significantly.

- We are seeking reinsurance lawyers to join us.

- You will be a two to three year qualified solicitor or barrister of equivalent call who already has knowledge and experience of the problems facing the reinsurance industry.

- You will wish to assume responsibility and continue to practice your chosen specialisation within a firm committed to the development of this important area of practice.

- You will enjoy working with an ambitious, dedicated and sociable team.

If you would like to explore this opportunity with us please write, enclosing a CV, to Mrs Anita Tovell, Head of Personnel, 65 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DY.



New York Paris Brussels Prague Ho Chi Minh City Hong Kong  
Beijing Tokyo Shanghai (associated office)

# CHAMBERS

## LARGE FIRM TO SMALL

It is not always easy to persuade candidates who work for large City firms to go to interviews with smaller firms, even if the small firms are niche practices well-known in their field. For some of them, such an excursion would be a voyage into unknown territory.

Most of these candidates have spent their working lives within the magic circle of the top corporate practices. The ethos of these firms and their superb reputations makes any move to a small firm extremely difficult. To mention the possibility of such a move to friends or colleagues invites the inevitable response: "You can do better than that." Such a comment, on the surface encouraging and supportive, is in truth discouraging. Self-confidence and determination are needed to remain undeterred by it.

If these candidates do go to see smaller firms, especially successful niche firms, they often seem surprised by the quality of work handled and by the high level of partner earnings. They are also struck by the close personal relationships which the partners seem to develop with their client chairmen and managing directors.

There is such a variety of niche practices that it is difficult for anyone to know how each of them is doing. Some are remarkably successful; others less so. It is unfortunate if candidates should allow any general prejudices to close off potentially suitable openings.

Michael Chambers

## INDUSTRY & BANKING Sonya Rayner

**International Tax: South East**  
Legal adviser, with at least 10 years' corporate tax experience to handle international tax planning for major overseas division of multinational corporation. Experience of US tax law required.

**Head of Legal: South East**  
Solicitor or barrister with at least 15 yrs' commercial experience to head small legal department of successful manufacturing company. Must have industry experience and sound commercial and business acumen.

**Finance: Midlands**  
Solicitor or barrister with at least 10 years' commercial experience to join the legal department of a well-known finance company. Experience of consumer credit law would be particularly useful.

**LONDON & PROVINCES** London: David Jermyn, David Woolfson  
South: Helen Mills, Yasmin Hosein Midlands: Lauren Cochrane

**Non-Contentious Construction: Holborn**  
Mid-sized firm seeks senior solicitor to complement its flourishing litigation practice & service project work generated by banking dept. Small part-following.

**Litigation Partner: West End**  
Partner sought to take over existing caseload of departing partner. Small following only really necessary as evidence of potential to attract clients.

**Company/Commercial: Holborn**  
Clear route to partnership offered by thriving medium-sized firm seeking 3-5 yrs qual solr for mix of large corporate deals and private co/comm work.

**Shipping Partner: City**  
Specialist sought by profitable niche shipping firm with particularly low overheads. Following req to supplement untapped potential from firm's existing clientele.

**Corporate Lawyer: Hong Kong**  
Hong Kong office of major City practice seeks 4-7 yrs qual co/comm solr with corp finance exp for high-profile transactions. No language skills required.

**Sole Lawyer: London**  
UK subsidiary of international software company requires hi-tech lawyer with c 7 years' experience to handle software licensing contracts and IP matters. Proven business acumen & software exp essential.

**Property Lawyer: South East**  
Opportunity for solr with at least 2 years' residential and commercial property exp to join legal dept of construction company. Previous exp of working for a housebuilder would be particularly desirable.

**Financial Services: City**  
Solicitor or barrister, with experience of the financial services industry and a basic knowledge of insurance law, to handle wide-ranging litigation in legal department of financial regulatory body.

**Computer Litigation: City**  
Firm attracting more and more hi-tech clients seeks 2-4 year qualified with some relevant experience.

**East Midlands: Senior Personal Injury**  
Solicitor, min 3 years qualified, to head defendant PI unit acting for major insurance company clients.

**Cambs: Employment Lawyer**  
Solicitor, min 1 year qual, experienced in all aspects of employment law for employers and employees.

**Hants Coast: Commercial Property**  
Leading comm firm seeks 3 yr qual plus comm prop solr for high quality comm L&T matters.

**Bucks: Commercial Litigation**  
Ligitor min 5 yrs qual for broad-based wk in profitable dept. Clients incl pub/priv cos, institutions.

**CHAMBERS & PARTNERS**  
PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT  
74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET  
Tel: 0171-606 9371 Fax: 0171-600 1793

# RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

WE ARE LOOKING for an additional recruitment consultant to join our team handling vacancies outside London. Our business, like that of most agencies at the moment, is increasing, and we need gifted consultants to expand it further.

We need someone who enjoys dealing with people, is sensitive to their requirements, and at the same time has experience of the commercial world. It is the combination of initiative, sensitivity and practicality that makes for success in this business.

As recruitment agencies go, Chambers & Partners have certain advantages. We have remained independent for over 21 years, avoiding incorporation into one of the large

agency groups. We therefore run our business to suit ourselves, without interference from tiers of management, without pressures of monthly targets. We try to focus on the efficient placement of candidates: this means creating a relaxed, friendly environment, giving our consultants maximum autonomy, and expecting them to take personal responsibility for the way they organise their area of operations.

Another point: we have always paid our consultants well above the average for this particular industry.

If you are interested in working with us, please ring Sonya Rayner or send her your c.v. (Total confidentiality is guaranteed.)

**Chambers**

CHAMBERS &amp; PARTNERS PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET Tel: (071) 606 9371 Fax (071) 600 1793

# COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Our Commercial Property Department is consistently expanding and handles a broad spectrum of property work with an emphasis on secured lending.

Opportunities arise for the following positions:-

1. A lawyer of partnership calibre with 4/5 years post qualification experience who in dealing with work of a demanding nature will combine his or her skills with a mature awareness of the clients' commercial requirements.

2. An enthusiastic young lawyer of 1/2 years post qualification experience who will be engaged in a variety of transactions. There will be full client contact and the successful applicant will be expected to apply his or her legal skills in a pragmatic and businesslike manner.

The remuneration will match the calibre of the appointees whom we are seeking and they will find that they will be working in a congenial and supportive environment.

Please apply to:  
Richard Kaufman,  
21 Dorset Square,  
London NW1 6QW  
Tel: 071 262 4511

**KAUFMAN  
KRAMER  
SHEBSON  
SOLICITORS**

# U.S. Qualified Attorney

The London office of a leading U.S. law firm is seeking a U.S. qualified attorney with excellent academic credentials and 3-6 years' experience, preferably including some litigation experience. Suitable candidates must possess the maturity and judgement to supervise outside counsel and manage an active litigation program. In addition, candidates should be sufficiently flexible to handle a broad range of issues and respond to the demands of this growing and varied practice.

Qualified candidates should forward a detailed CV and cover letter to:  
Box No 3698  
c/o Times Newspapers  
PO Box 3553  
Virginia Street  
London E1 9GA

# AMERICAN LAWYER

Major U.S. law firm's London office (EC4) specialising in insurance seeks associate 2 to 5 years out, N.Y. or California Bar, excellent U.S. law school record.

This appointment offers a challenging opportunity. Excellent training and back-up will be provided together with a competitive compensation package.

Please forward your resume to:  
Box No 3457

## SURREY TO £40k.

Established commercial practice seeks Commercial Property Lawyer 3 yrs PQE+ to handle existing caseload and expand further development. Following preferred. Early partnership envisaged. Mr Murray 0181 360 0081 (Ayr)

## LAW REVISION COURSES

Courses @ Tort & Land @  
©Trusts Costs & Admin  
24 April - 6 May  
Further Details From:  
Lawcare Tutorial Services  
0171 430 2423

# Corporate Finance and Banking

## US Law Firm

to £150,000 +

Our client is a major US-based international law firm with a rapidly growing European Practice encompassing offices in England, Italy and Switzerland and with a special emphasis on international and European corporate finance and banking transactions.

With a view to expanding its well-established London office, our client is now committed to make a strategic appointment at Senior Associate or Partner level where the successful candidate will play a pivotal role in the development of the Practice.

The firm is seeking to invest in a lawyer with the following attributes:

- Between 8 and 15 years' post qualification experience in complex international corporate finance and banking transactions.
- Strong partnership potential demonstrated through extensive experience in leading legal and financial teams in structuring, negotiating, and executing complex financial transactions.
- Transactional experience including M&As, joint ventures, debt and equity offerings (both public and private), privatisations, financial reorganisations, commercial loan syndications, and project finance transactions. Capital markets exposure would also be highly valuable.

Strong contacts in the UK and European financial and business communities and the ambition to take a leading role in expanding the corporate finance and banking practice of the London office.

Extremely strong client relationship and practice management skills and high energy levels; commitment to developing a growing practice which may offer a significant amount of travel. European language skills would also be of benefit.

A transportable book of business is attractive, however, the ability to create and maintain new business opportunities in the UK and Europe is a top priority.

The salary package is highly competitive, reflecting the importance of this appointment.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Michael Page Legal.

Interested candidates should forward their curriculum vitae (including contact number and details of current salary and benefits package) to Sarah Gore BA LLB, Solicitor at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, fax 0171 831 6662 or telephone her on 0171 831 2000.



**Michael Page Legal**  
Specialists in Legal Recruitment

BARRISTER required with commercial litigation experience for up to 12 months. Box No 3679

DEVON TO £200k. Proven, dynamic practice seeks experienced, motivated Executive to handle existing private client and family asset caseload. Excellent existing potential and opportunities for progression. Mr Lee 0181 360 0081 (Ayr)

MATERNITY TO £20k. Leading City practice seeks Solicitor 2 yrs PQE+ to handle existing caseload on behalf of high net worth individuals. Excellent working environment and career prospects. Mr Murray 0181 360 0081 (Ayr)

CONTRACTS/COMMERCIAL - Heads - Young (2000) partner with high profile clients needs well trained and willing employee and a challenge. Call on 01747 688277 (Chesham), a Company Ltd

LITIGATION - Motivated firm seeks young solicitor (2-3 yrs PQE) for domestic cases. Group practice. Excellent. Call Line Worker at 01747 688277 & Company Ltd

PROPERTY - London - Entrepreneurial practice seeks solicitor 1-4 yrs exp for best quality commercial work. Very City salary. Call Peter Williams at 01747 688277 & Company Ltd



In 1995 our strategy of investment is paying dividends in terms of quality of work and volume of business, creating scope for additional solicitors with one to five years' post qualified experience to develop their own careers in a period of sustained expansion.

### GENERAL BANKING

With in excess of one hundred financial institutions as clients, including a number of leading names in global banking, your work will include acquisition finance, project finance, trade finance, workouts and other forms of corporate banking.

### CAPITAL MARKETS

An integral part of banking and finance, you will have the opportunity to develop skills and ideas in the innovative field of structured finance with few repetitive transactions.

### ASSET FINANCE

Financing of large value capital assets of all types including in major transport (aircraft, shipping and rail), energy and infrastructure projects both in the UK and internationally.

### CORPORATE FINANCE

Wide range of UK and cross border corporate finance work including mergers and acquisitions, venture capital, flotations and other equity issues, joint ventures and commercial agreements.

### EU/COMPETITION LAW

Around 2 year qualified, either from EU/Competition Law department of major UK firm or with experience in a leading Brussels-based firm. London or Brussels based.

### EMPLOYMENT LAW

Concentration on employment law, contentious and non-contentious, and employee benefits, with expectation of full participation in marketing, including technical writing and seminars.

### REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE

Experience in all aspects of regulatory and FSA work, preferably with a leading City law firm, and in particular in transaction matters, including structured finance.

### WET SHIPPING LITIGATION

To complement the firm's highly active dry shipping practice, we now need an admiralty specialist to develop an all round marine litigation presence. You will be either with another medium to large City firm or a niche shipping practice as a Partner or Senior Assistant.

## WILDE SAPTE

*"The time to invest is during a recession"*

*How does your firm stand up to comparison?*

*Between 1991 and 1994 Wilde Sapte*

- opened offices in Paris, Brussels, Tokyo, Hong Kong and at Lloyds
- moved to impressive new offices at 1 Fleet Place
- committed to personal computers on every lawyer's desk
- expanded the partnership from 49 to 66
- repositioned the firm's focus and expertise to concentrate on global as well as national financial and corporate business

LONDON LLOYDS BRUSSELS  
HONG KONG NEW YORK  
PARIS TOKYO

**KELLYFIELD**  
CONSULTING

For further information, please contact Hugh Kelly or Mark Field on 0171 588 7878 (0171 351 6832 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Kellyfield Consulting, Second Floor, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET (fax: 0171 588 7020). Alternatively, send your C.V. directly to David Fowler, Personnel Director, Wilde Sapte, 1 Fleet Place, London, EC4M 7WS.

## HEAD OF CORPORATE LIBRARY

### SPECIAL SKILLS FOR A SPECIALIST LIBRARY

As a leading international law firm, Linklaters & Paines relies heavily on an effective information service to carry out its business. The high-profile nature of our work and diverse client base combine to create a stimulating and challenging environment, and one in which your technical skills will be both sought after and appreciated.

Responsible for a small team of librarians and assistants, you will manage a library, information and enquiry desk service for corporate practitioners as well as a business information service for the firm as a whole. You will be expected to maintain close involvement with the Corporate Department to ensure an awareness of relevant legal developments as they affect the practice, and also to keep abreast of current transactions and issues.

A graduate, ideally with a library/information qualification, you will certainly have sound experience gained either in a law library or business information environment coupled with management and training experience. Knowledge of primary sources and legal research expertise are vital, as you will be responsible for training junior lawyers in the use of key legal texts. You will also need a good knowledge of online legal and business databases. Well-developed interpersonal and communication skills are essential.

In return we offer an extremely competitive package and a commitment to career development through active training.

Please send your CV, in total confidence, to John Rienz, Senior Personnel Manager, Linklaters & Paines, Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA.



**LINKLATERS & PAINES**

## CFP LONDON

**CITY**  
Highly regarded property department of this medium sized firm actively seeks bright assistant qualified 2-4 years. Candidates will be specialists in planning law and a knowledge of environmental law would be an advantage. Strong academics and quality experience essential. Ref: 9179.

**CITY**  
First class City firm seeks high calibre junior IP solicitor to join its rapidly developing department. Candidates will be qualified up to 2 years and have at least one year's experience of contentious and non-contentious work. A science background an advantage. Ref: 9174.

**CITY**  
Top firm offers exciting opportunity to assistant solicitor qualified 2 to 4 years. Candidates will deal with a broad range of FSA work and actively involve themselves in a small, friendly and expanding unit. Early client contact and excellent prospects assured. Ref: 8226.

**CITY**  
Large firm seeks newly qualified solicitor to handle complex and challenging tax matters for its impressive corporate client base. Candidates will be academically excellent with relevant experience gained in the environment of a top City firm. Ref: 9188.

**CITY**  
Several major firms are seeking high calibre newly qualified solicitors to specialise in commercial property work. Candidates will have quality experience coupled with impressive academics. Strong personalities and commercial aptitude are essential. Ref: 9089.

Above is but a small representative sample of some of the vacancies we have registered with us from law firms throughout London. For more information on our services telephone us or alternatively write to us at 4 Bloomsbury Place, London WC1A 2QA; 137 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 1SF; 22 Deansgate, Manchester M3 1PH; 31-33 Corn Street, Bristol BS1 1HT; or 32 Sovereign Street, Leeds LS1 4BJ. All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence. Only Charles Fellowes are able to keep a Watching Brief® on your career.

<b>SOUTH</b> Tel: 0171-404 7007	<b>LONDON</b> Tel: 0171-637 1313	<b>LEEDS</b> Tel: 0113 246 0600
<b>BRISTOL</b> Tel: 0117 930 4644	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b> Tel: 0121-200 3363	<b>MANCHESTER</b> Tel: 0161-831 7007

**Charles Fellowes Partnership**

## NEW AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AUTHORITY DEPUTY CLERK £38,700 - £42,570

This is a new and challenging post within the Clerk's Department providing essential administrative and legal support to the Police Authority. It offers the opportunity of playing a major role in shaping the new Authority.

You will deputise for and assist the Clerk in ensuring that appropriate legal and administrative support services are provided to the Police Authority as well as being responsible for the day to day management of the Clerk's Department.

Applicants must be solicitors or barristers with substantial post qualification experience. Experience of legal work in a public service environment is essential whilst previous experience of the workings of a Police Authority or in a multi-disciplined environment are desirable.

Full information about this post is available in an Information Pack which can be obtained by calling Bristol (0117) 987 4800 (answerphone on this number after office hours) or by writing to The Clerk, New Avon and Somerset Police Authority, c/o PO Box 270, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol BS99 7HE. Please quote reference POL/3/T2. Application by form only which must be received by 12 Noon on 3 March 1995.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

## COMPANY COMMERCIAL PARTNER

South West c. £ 50,000

▼ Our client is one of the South West's leading practices. It has an excellent reputation for the quality of its commercial work and its diverse client base.

▼ To manage an increasing level of interesting and challenging work and to augment an existing team, it now seeks to appoint a senior Company and Commercial solicitor with a view to partnership in the short term.

▼ Enquiries are invited from ambitious solicitors, ideally with training and experience in a leading City or provincial practice, who are seeking the quality of life and work that our client is ideally located to provide.

▼ Applicants are invited to contact Macdonald & Company to discuss our client's profile in detail. Absolutely no disclosure will be made to our client or others without authorisation.

Macdonald & Company, Donhead House, Donhead St Andrew, Shaftesbury SP7 9EB  
DX 48013 Shaftesbury, Fax 01747 828047 Telephone 01747 828337

**MACDONALD & COMPANY**

## Head of Legal Services

Salary Range £30,702/£39,234

Free Medical Insurance

+ Generous Relocation Package + Lease Car

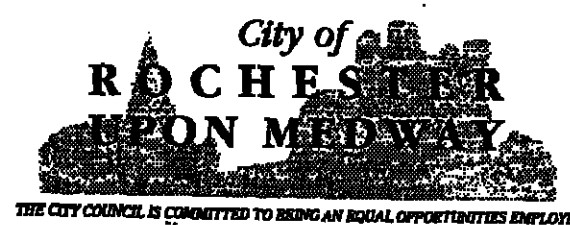
The City Council has a positive approach towards the many challenges facing Local Government and this key post can make a real contribution towards meeting those challenges successfully.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated person to lead a busy and hardworking legal section and to respond effectively to the tasks ahead. This will mean working towards the highest standard of service whilst continuing to manage the process of change as the authority adapts.

If you think that you are the person, an application form and Job Description can be obtained from the Personnel Services Manager, Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 4AW. Telephone Medway (01634) 732706 (24 hour answering service).

If you would like an informal discussion about the post, telephone David Williams, City Secretary, on (01634) 732742.

Closing Date for the return of Application Forms: 6th March 1995.



THE CITY COUNCIL IS COMMITTED TO BEING AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER



**SPL**  
SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

## SHORT-TERM CONTRACTS ...THE WAY AHEAD

### PROPERTY LITIGATION

City firm servicing broad range of domestic and international clients seeks 1-2 year qualified solicitor to assist with heavy workload. Contract will be 5-6 months. Ref: 19763

### EMPLOYMENT

National firm seeks solicitor with 3 years' ppe for London office. To assist with both contentious and non-contentious work - employer and employee. The contract will be open-ended at this stage. Ref: 19833

### BANKING

Leading insurance group, based in Manchester, seeks non-contentious banking lawyer to cover maternity leave (April for six months). Areas covered will include syndicated loans, venture capital, stock lending and derivatives. Ref: 19771

### COMMERCIAL

Specialist Engineering Group with operations both in the UK and Europe require mature commercial lawyer for 1-3 month contract. Position will involve providing full range of legal support to Director of Legal Affairs. Acquisition and disposal experience essential. Position based in Oxfordshire. Ref: 17294

### CONTRACTS

Team of solicitors sought for leading commercial firm to assist in the drafting, negotiation and completion of contracts. Must be at least 2-3 years' ppe, diligent and able to work well under pressure. Immediate start through to December 1995. Ref: 19773

### PARALEGAL/BANKING

Major European investment bank seeks paralegal with previous banking experience in either private practice or in-house to handle banking documentation. Experience in this country not necessarily required. Position to start immediately. Ref: 19673

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

2-3 year qualified solicitor required by city firm for 15 month contract. Candidate should have minimum commercial property background and will be required to assist with negotiations in respect of leases. Ref: 19260

### LITIGATION/Non-Contentious

Solicitor with minimum 3 years' experience sought by District Council, based in Hertfordshire, for 2 year contract. Local government experience useful but not essential. Applicants will be required to attend various committee meetings and will need to conduct own advocacy. Ref: 19680

For further information about these and other vacancies please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hughes on 0171 405 6062 (0171 350 0682 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyers, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

## ASSISTANT SOLICITOR Corporate Practice

Ince & Co. is looking for an Assistant Solicitor with up to two years' post-qualification experience to join its developing Corporate and Corporate Insurance Practice.

Applicants should have a strong academic background and appropriate experience in the practice of corporate law. Ideally, you will also have some knowledge of corporate insurance law although this is not essential. As part of a small team, you will need to be adaptable and motivated to work in this extremely challenging environment.

The firm's aim is to provide a high quality service, which recognises clients' commercial needs, in an informal and supportive environment. Members of this team are rewarded with competitive salaries and the usual benefits.

To apply, please send your curriculum vitae to Keith Rogers, Ince & Co., Knollys House, 11 Byward Street, London EC3R 5EN

**INCE  
& CO.**

Mobil Oil Company Limited, the UK manufacturing and marketing arm of Mobil Corporation, is relocating its head office to Milton Keynes in the Summer of 1995.

We are looking for two solicitors: one to handle general commercial matters and the other to deal with a wide range of commercial property issues. Five years' post qualification experience is required in both cases.

Energy, technical expertise, determination, clarity of expression and a friendly business-like manner are among the qualities required to meet the demands of a busy commercial organisation.

An initial period of working in London may be required prior to relocation taking effect.

Please send a comprehensive curriculum vitae, detailing current remuneration to P J Johnston, Manager, Human Resources, Mobil Oil Company Limited, Mobil House, 54-60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QB.

## Commercial Solicitor Commercial Property Solicitor

Milton Keynes  
c£37.5K + Ca-

**Mobil**

## BARNSELY MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE CLERK TO THE JUSTICES/ CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE (JUSTICES' CHIEF EXECUTIVE).

The Barnsley Magistrates' Courts Committee invite applications for the above post.

Applicants will be solicitors or barristers, qualified within the meaning of s.28 Justices of the Peace Act 1979 and will already have considerable experience within the Magistrates' Courts Service. The successful candidate will be appointed as Clerk to the Magistrates' Courts Committee and Training Officer. Accordingly, established training skills and proven ability to manage both staff and financial resources would be expected. The post-holder can also anticipate appointment as Secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee. The population of the Barnsley Division is 224,000. The post is subject to JMC conditions of service.

Applications, which should include the names of two referees should be received by 15th March 1995 and should be marked "Private & Confidential". Further information can be obtained by telephoning my Deputy, Brian Colbeck, on 0223 243161

J.P. Blackburn  
Clerk to the Magistrates' Courts Committee,  
Barnsley Magistrates' Court  
Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2DW

## CORBETT & CO

### INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION LAWYERS

Urgent need for assistants (circa 4+ years qualified; also recently qualified) to hold out with a mix of major UK and international contract advice and dispute work. Applications are invited in strict confidence to Churchman House, 1 Bridgeman Road, Teddington TW11 9AJ. Construction experience desirable. International experience is not. Basic computer skills an advantage. Sorry! No atrium, no commuting to the City and change-out rates of less than £150 per hour. If these handicaps would damage your self-image, please do not apply.

Solicitors

**C**

CORBETT & CO

## TIME FOR A CHANGE!

### PROJECT FINANCE

To £39,000  
Top right project financiers required by international law firm in London office. You will be circa 2 years qualified with requisite experience or with a banking or corporate background and desire to develop this top specialisation. Involvement in power generation/energy projects, mining and mineral projects, infrastructure projects and privatisations. Outstanding prospects. Ref: L15924

### EMPLOYMENT

To £44,000  
Leading City firm seeks 2-4 years' qualified employment lawyer with excellent experience from another major practice or in-house firm. Involvement in key employees' service agreements, employee share options and benefits and dismissals. You will be a proactive practical problem solver, attracted to joining this close-knit team. Ref: L19687

### CORPORATE TAX

To £42,000  
Major City practice seeks high quality corporate tax lawyer with between 1 and 3 years' experience. Joining an expert team of lawyers, you will be involved in mergers and acquisitions and tax aspects of M&A often in an international context. Top academics a pre-requisite as is a commercial approach. Ref: L12964

### CONSTRUCTION

To £35,000  
Leading City firm in this sphere now seeks to add further expertise to its high profile team. You will be 2-5 years' ppe with extensive experience in contentious and non-contentious construction matters. You will also be personable with commercial sense and analytical abilities. Top salary package. Ref: L1921

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams or Emma Cowell (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-264 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

**QD**  
QUARRY DOUGLAS

UNITED KINGDOM • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

## US Law Firm

### Central London

### Exceptional Package

Our client is a major US law firm with a strong worldwide reputation. Established over 100 years ago, it represents a host of the world's major corporations and is internationally recognised as a market leader in the area of product liability and toxic tort litigation, with particular expertise in medical devices, pharmaceutical and tobacco products. The firm's London office was established in 1989 to provide additional European support to the US operation and the partnership has now identified a need to recruit additional outstanding UK qualified lawyers with expertise in either or both of the following areas:

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# Public service or ambulance chasing?

Should lawyers encourage victims to take on the might of big industry?

Martyn Day on the role of group actions

There has been a spate of media reports recently on large numbers of people who have been injured or killed as a result of some alleged problem. The Cook Report has looked into cot deaths, and the victims of hepatitis C, steroids, the MMR vaccines, and the Gulf War Syndrome. In each case, lawyers have been quoted as saying either that there are claims already ongoing or encouraging claimants to come forward.

Though these "group" actions are not unheard of, their numbers are at an unprecedented level and lawyers have undoubtedly been at the forefront of encouraging victims to join in.

Two questions have been raised in relation to the role that lawyers have adopted. Should the law be involved at all in attempting to resolve these issues and, at a time when many lawyers are taking a far more pro-active stance, is there a dividing line between ambulance chasing and the performance of a genuine public service?

For journalists, finding a link between some agent and a series of illnesses is one of those breakthroughs that could make their names. In 1983, James Cutler, of Yorkshire Television, produced a programme which showed a cluster of childhood leukaemias around the Sellafield nuclear plant. The response to the programme was quite phenomenal. An independent inquiry was set up and since that time millions of pounds have been spent on researching the phenomenon. Cutler has made his name.

Roger Cook's programme attempted to show a link between the

antimony in certain fire-resistant mattresses and cot-death syndrome. There are occasions when journalists covering this type of issue leave it hanging in the air and people are left not knowing whether the allegations made are correct. This is a particular problem for the victims themselves.

There are three ways that such reports are followed through: the Government announces an inquiry (which is rare), scientists in the field conduct experiments to follow up on the allegations, and/or lawyers can pursue claims on behalf of the victims.

**We should assist victims, not cause misery**

The first and second routes are said to be the best, because they allow an objective assessment of whether the implied link is correct, and money is spent on science rather than on lawyers' fees. Further, it is suggested that the courtroom is a very poor place for the assessment of whether or not a hypothesised link is true.

It seems to me that while this might be true for society at large, for the alleged victims or their families it is far from true. For them, they are not an objective statistic in some study, and their pain and anger at what has happened to them cannot be assuaged by a government committee, meeting endlessly, considering evidence in private and often providing an anodyne report which fails to explain reasons or to apportion blame.

Victims want and need to have some degree of control over the process of uncovering the truth. They want some control over the gathering of the evidence and the presentation of the arguments and,



At a time when many lawyers are taking an increasingly active stance, is there a dividing line between ambulance chasing and the performance of a genuine public service?

most of all, they want someone that they can trust to look carefully at the evidence and tell them whether or not the link is true.

Many people are not prepared to accept the word of a government minister saying that there is no link, and where scientists say the link is not proven, the question always arises as to what that means. To what level of proof are they making this statement? They rarely know themselves, never mind explaining their position to the public.

The one person whose judgment victims are generally prepared to accept is that of a judge. People feel, rightly or wrongly, that they are independent, will review the evi-

dence fairly and come out with a balanced decision on whether or not, on the balance of probabilities, the link is proven. That is the level of proof to which most people can relate.

Society could say to the victims that taking their cases through the courts is too expensive a way for them to obtain justice, particularly because a proportion of the costs usually comes out of the public purse. I would immediately accept that as a lawyer who makes his living from working on these cases, I am biased. Yet it seems to me that to ensure that individuals are given the power and resources to take on

the might of big industry is to provide one of the fundamental freedoms of a sophisticated democracy.

To deny victims this right is to take away an important safety valve and an important platform where their concerns can be considered.

On the second issue of the role that lawyers take, it seems to me there is a delicate balance for those of us who are involved in this type of work between letting people know that there is the possibility of legal action and feeding off the concerns of the victims. It is easy for a lawyer to stand up and say that there are grounds for a legal action, having done next to no research on

either the science or the law before making that statement. That seems to me to be wrong.

When lawyers make such a statement they are taking on a real responsibility to ensure that what they are saying is correct. For the victims, such a statement may well seem like a beacon of light.

Where the statement is clearly wrong, and the case quickly folds through lack of evidence, the weight that the lawyer has added to the burden the victim is already shouldering is quite unforgivable. It is our role to assist victims, not cause them increased misery.

To encourage victims to come forward on the basis that there is a claim is not a step that solicitors

should take lightly. If necessary they should have talked to other lawyers and scientists before they are prepared to suggest that a claim can be brought.

Group legal actions are an important way of empowering victims and should continue to be supported. The spotlight, however, is on those lawyers who undertake this ground-breaking work.

In such actions, it is important for us, the lawyers, to retain the trust of the public — a trust that depends on our doing our homework before speaking out — and not shooting from the hip.

● The author, a personal injuries solicitor, is involved in the above kind of cases.

What are the spin-offs for the legal profession from the changing face of British retailing?

## Lawyers set store by shops

In the week when the Church Commissioners put up for sale the Metro Centre in Newcastle and the plug was finally pulled on the Rumbelows retail chain, there was a grain of wisdom in the observation by John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary, that if you were tired of shopping, you are going to the wrong shops. Translated for lawyers, it meant that if you are not doing retail property transactions right now, you have got the wrong clients.

Even apart from the Metro Centre sale, it is estimated that the value of shopping centre deals to be announced this month will exceed £300 million. Although some lawyers had feared the revival in the retail property market was slowing down, the recent announcements show that this is far from being the case.

The picture is, however, complex. As Steven Fogel of Titmuss Sainer Dechert em-

phasised last week, "The retail property field is a series of different markets. It is almost impossible to generalise." Most of the big work now is coming from transactions involving out-of-town shopping centres.

Adrian Biggs of Eversheds Jacques & Lewis, said: "Even when the commercial property market was at its gloomiest, there was still a reasonable level of retail work. Now we are seeing quite a lot of activity. We are certainly busier than this time last year."

The race for the best sites between Tesco and Sainsbury has been one of the driving forces behind the availability of work for retail property specialists. However, now the race is slowing down, lawyers are expecting that other clients

will be eager to move to out-of-town centres if only because it may soon be too late. Government policy no longer favours such development.

Mr Biggs said: "Following the line adopted by the Department of the Environment in its Planning Guide No 6, there is a presumption against giving consent to new out-of-town or edge-of-town developments. So clients want to get into those already established."

Some lawyers expect a lively battle over sites that have been given outline consent but may be turned down at a later stage. If that happens often, clients are likely to lose interest in pushing against the closed door.

Roger Bullworthy of Penningtons, said: "There are some developers who have already become tired of going to appeal and losing over new out-of-town developments. So we might be facing a slowdown in that kind of work."

The likely bottleneck on new opportunities may, therefore, force developers and retailers back into town centres. This could be good news for the disposal of the Rumbelows chain, despite the fact that in many cities there is already an over-supply

of shops on the market.

According to Louis Manches of the Aldwych firm Manches & Co, it is simply a matter of being realistic.

"If the seller has a reasonable site and is looking for a realistic price," he said, "there is no reason why he shouldn't get a deal."

The best service that a lawyer could offer to a client in this market was to be commercially minded. It was significant, perhaps, that Lesley McDonagh, Lovell White Durrant's new managing partner (an appointment announced last week), had established her reputation as one of the most commercially minded property lawyers in the City.

Robert Kidby, a Lovell

White Durrant partner, said that Ms McDonagh, who is the first woman to head a top ten London firm, epitomised the way in which property lawyers today have to be acutely aware of commercial reality.

Mr Kidby said: "Retail property deals are now so large that they have become very widespread transactions involving a number of different skills. My perception is that the big clients are, therefore, turning to the firm that can offer the total service in banking, planning and property."

"In other words, they are looking for quality services on a broad base."

"Born to shop" may be the motto which is every Briton's birthright. But where they shop and how they shop is now being shaped by lawyers as much as retailers.

EDWARD FENNELL



Metro Centre: lawyers step in to ease the deal through

Law Report February 14 1995 Court of Appeal

## Date of writ cannot be changed

**Harrison and Another v Touché Ross (a Firm)**

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Morritt (Judgment January 30)

The court could not treat a writ as issued months before or after the date it was in fact issued.

Where therefore the plaintiff's writ claiming damages in contract and tort had not been regularly served during its validity, so that the claim in contract had become time-barred before the defendant firm was aware of the proceedings, it was not open to the court, having refused to extend the writ's validity under Order 6, rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court or to waive its irregular service under Order 2, rule 1, to treat the writ as issued and validly served on the first date that it had come to the defendant's attention.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the defendant, Touché Ross, from Judge Rich QC, sitting as a judge of the High Court who, having (i) refused an application by the plaintiffs, Peter Harrison and John Harrison, for an extension of the validity of their writ issued on July 8, 1992 against the defendant and (ii) refused to treat irregular service of the writ, in failing to comply with Order 81, rule 3(1), on November 6, 1992 as good service, had directed that the writ be treated as issued and served on November 9, when it came to the attention of one of the defendant's partners.

Mr Michael Briggs, QC, for the defendants; Mr Peter Roth for the plaintiffs.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, referred to the judge's unchallenged findings, in refusing the application under Order 6, rule 8, that no satisfactory explanation had been given for the plaintiffs' failure to serve within the period of the writ's validity and no good reason had been shown for extending its validity beyond the limitation period: see *Kleinwort Benson Ltd v Barbak Ltd* ([1987] AC 597). Mr Briggs had argued that the effect of the judge's order was not

to validate the original writ, issued in time for purposes of both contractual and tortious claims, but to validate service of a notional new writ issued and served on November 9, that the rules conferred no jurisdiction to do that; alternatively, that since the effect of the decision was to grant a partial extension of the validity of the writ in circumstances where no good reason could be shown, the order represented an impermissible exercise of discretion.

Mr Roth, supporting the judge's order, had argued that the court's jurisdiction under Order 2, rule 1 was very wide, enabling the judge to make such order as justice required; that the judge had exercised his discretion so as to ensure that the defendant would be exposed to no liability to which it might not have been exposed had the plaintiffs issued proceedings on the date when the notice of one of the defendant's partners, and that that exercise of discretion should not be disturbed.

His Lordship referred to *Leal v Dunlop Bio-Processes International Ltd* ([1984] 1 WLR 874); *Boocock v Hilton International Co* ([1993] 1 WLR 1065); *The Golden Mariner* ([1990] 2 Lloyd's Rep 213); *Khokhar v Post Office* ([1990] 1 WLR 1065); *Counters Ltd* (unreported, November 9, 1994, CA (Civ) Transcript No 1321); *Ward-Lee v Lineham* ([1993] 1 WLR 754); *Barr v Barr* ([1994]

PIQR P45) and *Singh v Dupont Harper Foundries Ltd* ([1994] 1 WLR 789). Again the starting point was the *Kleinwort Benson* case. In the present case no satisfactory explanation had been given for the failure to serve within the validity period and good reason had not been shown for granting an extension.

The irregular attempt to serve within the validity period had been ineffective to bring the proceedings to the notice of the defendant, and the defendant was unaware of any impending claim, so that the substantial object of the rule as to service had not been achieved.

The judge had rightly refused to grant an extension under Order 6, rule 8 and to waive the irregularity under Order 2, rule 1.

Although he was not invited to waive the irregularity under Order 2, rule 1 and grant an extension under Order 3, rule 5, he could not have done so without undermining the effect of the *Kleinwort Benson* case.

The result he wished to achieve was one whereby the writ was treated as effectively served on November 9, so as to stop time running on the claim in tort, but not so as to defeat the limitation defence in respect of the claim in contract which had accrued.

Accordingly, it was essential that the writ should also be treated as having been issued on that date

and not earlier. Thus the order provided that the writ be treated as issued on November 9. But, as was apparent from its face, it was issued over four months earlier.

In the court's opinion it was not open to it to treat a writ as issued months before or after the date it was in fact issued. The time of issue not only affected the substantive rights of the parties to the action but might also affect the rights of third parties.

Order 6, rule 7(3) provided that a writ was issued on its sealing. It might be that the court might treat as issued a writ delivered into its custody at a time when the relevant registry was not open.

That practice, approved in *Je Ne Infants* ([1967] Ch 513) was now expressly provided for in Order 6, rule 7A in the case of the Admiralty and Commercial Registry.

But neither that principle nor that rule was applicable here and no other rule authorised the court to do what the judge had done.

The judge had accordingly made his order without jurisdiction. But even if he had had power to make the order, it represented an impermissible exercise of discretion since its effect was to extend the validity of the writ in a situation where an extension could not be justified.

The appeal would be allowed. Solicitors: Fladgate Fielder; Bloom Camillin.

## Tablets can be medical reason

**Wade v DPP**

Where under section 7 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 a person was requested to give reasons why a blood specimen should not be taken, the response that he took tablets was capable of being a medical reason.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Dyson) so stated on February 6 when allowing an appeal by Malcolm Lindsay Wade against his conviction by a magistrates' court on March 4, 1994 of driving with

excess blood alcohol contrary to section 5(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988. He had been fined £200, had his licence endorsed and was disqualified from holding a licence for three years.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that Mr Wade's response that he took tablets had to be taken as representation as to which specimen, urine or blood, should be taken, and it was for the officer to decide which. He chose blood.

There was no evidence that the police officer had taken the answer into account or considered whether

it should be a medical reason. On the face of it, the reason given was a medical reason because the use of tablets could have affected the blood analysis or the taking of blood could have been medically unwise. Those possibilities might appear far-fetched but it was impossible to know.

The officer had not asked questions. If he had concluded on proper consideration that the response was not a medical reason then he could have taken blood. Otherwise if in doubt he should have obtained a doctor's opinion.

**What's behind the green door**







# BBC lines up cream of French calendar

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

THE BBC is to screen the best flat racing from France during its *Sunday Grandstand* programme after it emerged triumphant yesterday in lengthy negotiations with GIE Galop, the racing authority in that country. Although the BBC's coverage reaches its zenith with a live broadcast of the *Forêt de la Forêt* in October, armchair viewers can expect regular screenings of group one races in France. Those races not shown live will be screened in delayed broadcast shortly after they are run.

Coverage begins on May 14 with the French 1,000 Guineas, 2,000 Guineas and Prix de la Forêt. Also in the season's package are the Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby), which will be shown live, and the Prix de Diane Hermès (French Oaks), which will invariably attract British runners.

The BBC assumes broadcasting rights to French racing from Channel 4, which held the contract until yesterday's announcement. The three-year deal, up to and including the 1997 season, offers the BBC compensation for the loss of the Cheltenham Festival to its arch rival three months ago.

Cheltenham reversal appears to have prompted the BBC into a more aggressive commitment towards racing coverage. Its cameras returned to Ayr last month after an absence of 17 years.

Other French races guaranteed television coverage include the Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville, the Arc de Triomphe trials and opening-day highlights of the Arc de Triomphe weekend. The BBC plans to broadcast as many live races as its Sunday schedule permits.

In expressing his delight with the deal, Pierre Charon, president of GIE Galop, said yesterday: "The main feature will be the Arc de Triomphe, which will be covered live by the BBC as one of their major international sporting events."

On the domestic front, Auburn Castle, Dancing Paddy and Dual Image, all candidates for the Arkle Trophy at the Cheltenham Festival, are among eight horses entered for the Michael Seely Nottinghamshire Novices' Chase on Saturday. The race is named in commemoration of the former racing correspondent of *The Times*.

Jimmy Fitzgerald, who trains Dual Image, is particularly keen to land the two-mile event. "Michael and I were great friends and victory would mean a lot to me," Fitzgerald said. "I was very pleased with the way my horse jumped on his chasing debut at Wetherby but we don't know how good he is. The race has been a lucky one for me in the past."

Dual Image's most dangerous opponent is Dancing Paddy, who accounted for the previously unbeaten Gales Cavalier at Ascot last week. Ken Cunningham-Brown, who trains Dancing Paddy, said yesterday: "I think my horse could beat any novice chaser in the land over two miles. If he is available, Norman Williamson will again ride him."

Newcastle received 21 entries for the Tote Eider Chase on Saturday, among them the Grand National winner, Minnehoma, and Tartan Tyrant, from the Gordon Richards stable. The pair were due to clash at Uttoxeter on Saturday until that fixture was abandoned due to waterlogging. Ladbrokes bet 5-2 Tartan Tyrant, 3-1 Minnehoma, 8-1 Run For Free and 10-1 or better about the others.

Flakey Dove, the winner of last year's Champion Hurdle, has been retired to stud after sustaining damage to the tendon in her off-limb. "We'd probably be fine if the Champion Hurdle was two months away," her trainer, Richard Price, said, "but we only have a month and these leg injuries take time to heal."



Fiftysevenchannels leads Bradford Beau on his way to an emphatic victory in *The Times* Rising Stars series qualifier at Hereford

## Fiftysevenchannels tunes in to winning frequency

BY BRIAN BEEL

THE third renewal of *The Times* Rising Stars hunter chase series got off to a rousing start yesterday when Fiftysevenchannels landed an impressive all-the-way success in the Hereford qualifiers.

Under a confident ride from Noel Wilson, the six-year-old readily brushed aside the challenges of his rivals for an 11-length win over Celtic Abbey.

Bradford Beau chased the leader until four fences from home to be succeeded by Lord Of The West. However, his turn at the head of the chasing pack was all too brief as he swiftly weakened and was pulled up.

As the dangers evaporated, Celtic Abbey, who ran a splendid race in attempting to give Fiftysevenchannels a stone, was left to pursue the winner. But his chance disappeared with an error at the second-last fence which his rider, David Jones, did well to survive.

After being denied an outing in the four-mile chase at Uttoxeter on Saturday, Rusty Bridge was diverted here and stayed on well to take third with Androlit the only other finisher.

Fiftysevenchannels is owned by John Cooper, who tried to win the first series two years ago with *Many A Slip*. After winning at Kelso, *Many A Slip* was injured in the final and, although he was coming

back into work some 18 months later, he injured himself again and was put down last November.

Cooper bought Fiftysevenchannels in Ireland last year to win a bet. He had to have a winner before the end of February and, already successful in a point-to-point, he remained in Ireland to win two more races before being

should look for racing but he's put on a bit of condition now and probably needs another race before he is at his best."

Keith Powell was pleased with the performance of Celtic Abbey. "I take every race as it comes," he said, "but I see no reason after this why he shouldn't take his chance in the Cheltenham Foxhunters."

Rusty Bridge is likely to have another race before attempting the four-mile National Hunt Chase, also at the Festival. Keith Johnson said: "He went well enough here in ground that he hates. I was disappointed he could not go at Uttoxeter on Saturday as I think he had a tremendous chance at the weights."

Fiftysevenchannels may go to Kelso for his next race in another qualifier for *The Times* series. Cooper's wife, Margaret, has one just as good in Country Tarragon and he is likely to run in the other northern qualifier at Wetherby in 15 days' time.

### Hereford details

2.30 THE TIMES RISING STARS HUNTER CHASE. Qualifier. 1.50m. 1. FIFTYSEVENCHANNELS (Mr N Wilson, 13-8 fms), 2. Celtic Abbey (Mr D S Jones, 13-8 fms), 3. Rusty Bridge (Mr R Johnson, 14-0 fms), 4. Woodbury Fox (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 5. Lord Of The West (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 6. Androlit (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 7. Celtic Abbey (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 8. Rusty Bridge (Mr R Johnson, 14-0 fms), 9. Woodbury Fox (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 10. Lord Of The West (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 11. Androlit (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 12. Celtic Abbey (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 13. Rusty Bridge (Mr R Johnson, 14-0 fms), 14. Woodbury Fox (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 15. Lord Of The West (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 16. Androlit (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 17. Celtic Abbey (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 18. Rusty Bridge (Mr R Johnson, 14-0 fms), 19. Woodbury Fox (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 20. Lord Of The West (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 21. Androlit (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 22. Celtic Abbey (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 23. Rusty Bridge (Mr R Johnson, 14-0 fms), 24. Woodbury Fox (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 25. Lord Of The West (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 26. Androlit (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 27. Celtic Abbey (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 28. Rusty Bridge (Mr R Johnson, 14-0 fms), 29. Woodbury Fox (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 30. Lord Of The West (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 31. Androlit (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 32. Celtic Abbey (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 33. Rusty Bridge (Mr R Johnson, 14-0 fms), 34. Woodbury Fox (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 35. Lord Of The West (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 36. Androlit (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 37. Celtic Abbey (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 38. Rusty Bridge (Mr R Johnson, 14-0 fms), 39. Woodbury Fox (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 40. Lord Of The West (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 41. Androlit (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 42. Celtic Abbey (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 43. Rusty Bridge (Mr R Johnson, 14-0 fms), 44. Woodbury Fox (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 45. Lord Of The West (Mr J D Wood, 13-8 fms), 46. 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## Oliver Holt talks to John Barnes, a central figure in the Liverpool revival

# From wide boy to reluctant middleman

John Barnes fires words like bullets. They spill from his lips in volley after volley and he pauses only to assess their effect. It is not verbiage, either. Every word counts; every one finds its mark. Fifteen minutes in conversation with him is of more worth than an afternoon with many of his fellow professionals.

While some of his teammates seem to delight in displays of cussedness, Barnes prides himself on his skills of communication. People want to listen again, too. He has been at the centre of the Liverpool revival under Roy Evans, and Terry Venables has resuscitated his England career, giving him the chance to increase his tally of caps to 76. Ironically, he is not able to add to them this week in Dublin. While England play Ireland tomorrow, Barnes will be hoping to advance Liverpool's Coca-Cola Cup cause in the first leg of the semi-final against Crystal Palace at Anfield.

After the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Turf Moor, the Burnley players singled out Barnes as the man who had prevented an upset, the one who had held Liverpool together and given them shape when they were in danger of being overrun. Steve McNamara was given the freedom to roam forward, leaving Barnes to excel in the midfield holding position alone to him.

His play there mirrors his speech. Every pass is precise and measured; the timing is perfect; delivery is neat and quick, and rarely flustered, with little wasted. His detractors, the ones who said that he was finished when he was laid low by injury and disagreements with Graeme Souness, the previous manager, have begun to change their tune. But Barnes, 31, still yearns for a change.

"We have got a lot of attacking players in the team," he said, "and the manager assumes that I am the one who is a bit more disciplined, has been around a bit longer and is a bit more aware, so I am asked to play the holding role. But it does not compare with the thrill of actually attacking, getting forward, getting goals."



Barnes, the winger who moved inside and back to full fitness, is relishing being part of the new Liverpool. Photograph: Howard Barlow

going past players. All things being equal, I would like a more attacking role.

"But all things are not equal. You have got to look at the structure of the team, the make-up of the team, the players in the team, and realise that that is not possible. I play a more basic game now, getting the ball off the back four and playing it to the front men."

Barnes is keen to emphasise that he is not complaining. He is thankful to be fully fit for the first time since he ruptured his Achilles tendon while playing for England against Finland

in 1992, happy to be part of a new beginning at Anfield after the trauma of the Souness reign, when, together with other senior players, he was made the scapegoat for the club's failings.

"I do not feel I was misused as a player by Souness," he said. "Because of my fitness level, I was not able to do what I am capable of doing. I was able to do it for five or ten minutes, and after that I was playing on memory."

"His frustration was: 'Why are you not doing it?', and my frustration with him was: 'Can't you understand how

long I've been out?' If you miss pre-season, you will not be able to perform consistently at the highest level, but, as soon as I was injury free, I was playing in the first team. I was not match fit, but I had to play."

Now, like Ian Rush, Barnes is playing for a new contract. He wants a three-year deal when his present one expires, at the end of the season, and is waiting for the club to open negotiations. He is at the crossroads: the memories of his goal against Brazil in 1984 tinged with sepsis; his part in the great Liverpool teams of

the past a cherished relic of another era. But as the new breed — Fowler, Babb, Redknapp, McManaman and Jones — come into their own, the chance to bridge two dynasties beckons.

"This is a new beginning for all of us," Barnes said. "We were in the doldrums for three years and everyone said that that was the end of Liverpool. The team and I had a barren spell, but now we are enjoying a resurgence. It is a new lease of life for all of us."

"It is a happier squad now, but, when Souness was in charge, we had a lot of senior

players who were injured. A lot of the kids were thrown in and a lot was asked of them. With the best will in the world, we were never going to maintain what we had achieved in the late Eighties. Now, they aren't kids any more. Roy Evans has had the benefit of three years Graeme Souness didn't have."

"They are still young, they have still got a long way to go, but the future is good for Liverpool. The potential is there for us to become one of the great Liverpool sides. Past glories, past failures, count for nothing now."

## Africa rises up as one against Fifa's decision

Fifa is discovering what it means to have a tiger by the tail. Last Friday, the world governing body for football cancelled, at a month's notice, the world youth (under-20) championships that were scheduled for Nigeria from March 11 to 26. Tomorrow, Fifa's seven-man emergency committee sits in Zurich to "reconsider" its decision in the light of the wrath of every imaginable African sporting and political force.

Fifa's reason for calling off the tournament was an outbreak of meningitis and cholera at two of the competition venues. A delegation from Lagos, including a top World Health Organisation official, flew to Zurich, and Fifa's headquarters, yesterday with documentation insisting that Fifa had exaggerated the problems and assurances that the Nigerian Government could contain the epidemic.

Furthermore, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) warned of the repercussions of Fifa's decision. "Fifa's unfortunate action will have negative and grave consequences on Africa's future participation in international football tournaments," the OAU said.

Among the sporting authorities denouncing Fifa, Mubeni Mbatia, the chairman of the Kenya National Sports Council, said: "Black Africa may conclude that Fifa was out for every possible opportunity to deny Nigeria this golden opportunity of hosting a global soccer event."

The Kenyan comments come after João Havelange, the autocratic president of Fifa, had attempted in January to persuade Nigeria to withdraw from hosting the tournament, a withdrawal based on different criteria. Though Fifa headquarters de-



**ROB HUGHES**  
Overseas Football

nied it, the Nigerian federation published a letter from Havelange, in which he condemned the organisation, the structure and readiness of the stadium and the communication facilities.

When the seven gentlemen of the emergency committee meet tomorrow, their dilemma will be profound. Unless they are totally convinced that there is no health risk, they cannot put young players at risk. But if a withdrawal from Nigeria is in order, then why not call on South Africa, now repatriated into the Fifa fold, to stage the tournament on African soil? Perhaps this is

one time that England should be grateful not to have qualified for an international football event.

Meanwhile, Fifa is trying to insist that players chosen by their national federations be released for the blighted tournament, presumably because it may be relocated, and clubs who pay their wages are furious. Real Madrid have attempted to block their loss of the teenage wonder, Raul Gonzalez Blanco, and Ajax have at least three players who would have to miss their European Cup quarter-final second leg at home to Hajduk Split.

SPEAKING of England's non-participation, the break-up of Barcelona has come too late for Manchester United. The Barcelona team, that routed United in the European Cup, is now in collapse. Romario has been dispatched back to Brazil. Stoichkov has reverted to his old tempestuous ways, and the precarious defence has been hammered.

Last month, Barcelona lost 2-0 to Real Madrid; last Tuesday, Atlético Madrid thrashed Barcelona 4-1 in the Spanish Cup in the Nou Camp; and last Saturday, Real Santander repeated the 5-0 humiliation of Johan Cruyff's multimillion pound team, a humiliation which included two sendings off.

Cruyff takes embarrassment hard; he has talked of the time arriving to make "difficult decisions". Carlos Rexach, his assistant, was less diplomatic. "It's time to take

the bull by the horns, time for revolution and new players," he said. Stoichkov was less than reverent about his team coach. "When the team wins, it's because of Cruyff. When we lose, it's down to the players."

THE third area where grave consequences are applicable is Genoa. On Wednesday night, either alarmingly early or perceptibly close to the event, the Italian league has decided to re-stage the Genoa versus AC Milan match which was halted two Sundays ago after a Genoa fan had been stabbed to death.

Apparently, financial considerations are also at play. The league says that it would be difficult to play the match later in the season because of Milan's European Cup participation. Let us hope that Italy has timed the rematch correctly.

## Hyperactive O'Sullivan leads next generation

Phil Yates on the threat facing snooker's elite from emerging talents

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, who became the youngest winner in the history of the Benson and Hedges Masters on Sunday, and John Higgins, his 9-3 victim in the final at Wembley, are irrefutably the finest teenage talents that snooker has produced in a decade.

In winning the United Kingdom championship in November 1993, O'Sullivan superseded Stephen Hendry as the youngest winner of a ranking event. He has now become the most junior Masters champion, and genuinely believes that, come April, he could easily replace Hendry as the youngest world champion.

O'Sullivan, a hyperactive individual whose Achilles' heel is an inability to sustain peak concentration for lengthy periods, may find the slog of 17 days at the Crucible too taxing at the moment, but, if he can overcome that problem, anything is possible.

Higgins, more level-headed and less likely to fall prey to distraction, also has the game to prevail at the championship. That is the opinion of O'Sullivan, who said, after collecting £120,000 for winning the Masters, that he felt that everyone, apart from Higgins, Hendry and himself, was "struggling". This sea-

son, Hendry has already won four tournaments and £290,000 in prize-money to head the earners' list by a considerable margin, so it would be ridiculous to say that the king is dead.

Hendry remains at the peak of his powers as he demonstrated by compiling an unprecedented 12 century breaks on the way to capturing the United Kingdom championship last November. The Scot shows no signs of relinquishing his status as the game's pre-eminent exponent.

However, if Hendry does go into decline — there is a school of thought that he will retire at the top in the year 2000 — it is fair to assume that Higgins and O'Sullivan, at the vanguard of the youth movement, will become dominant.

Steve Davis ruled in the Eighties, Hendry took over at the start of the Nineties and Higgins and O'Sullivan each possesses the credentials to lead the professional game into the 21st century. The Davis and Hendry monopo-

lies could easily be replaced by a Higgins-O'Sullivan duopoly.

Other young players have displayed real potential, including Mark Williams, 19, from Ebbw Vale, Stephen Lee, 20, from Trowbridge, a former English amateur champion, and Andy Hicks, 21, from Tavistock, who reached the semi-finals of the Skoda Grand Prix in October.

Yet few would argue that, in terms of temperament, application and natural ability, Higgins and O'Sullivan possess the full package of skills required to reach the top. O'Sullivan, who, along with Higgins, turned professional in the summer of 1992, is the more impulsive of the pair; Higgins appeals more to the traditionalist.

It is the contrast in styles which ensures that the future of the game is in safe, if very young, hands. The immediate future is the £325,000 Sweater Shop International Open, which got under way at Bournemouth yesterday. O'Sullivan assumes the uncustomed role of elder statesman today when he begins his challenge for John Parrott's title by meeting Graeme Dott, 17, from Glasgow, in the first round.

RADIO CHOICE

## Love and the pheromones

True Love: At Last, Scientific Proof Radio 4, 8.00pm.

This is the most, and least, romantic of Radio 4's St Valentine's Day offerings. Sue Nelson, glass of wine in one hand, Mills and Boon-type novel in the other, works her way through a tale of a heavy bosom and a manly chemist who find True Love after a stumble or two. Scientists, biochemists and behavioural experts break into his absorption, with theories about pheromones, androgens, oestrogen, and cuddle chemicals. Fortunately, Nelson cannot hear them, and the Mills and Boon would probably be thrown into the bin. At one point, the romantic and scientific merge. The first kiss, we learn, is like a ballet, involving the action of nine pairs of muscles (scientific).

My Music, Radio 2, 10.00pm.

There are five good reasons why I welcome the return of this musical quiz. They are, in alphabetical order, Ants, Muir, Norden, Race and Wallace. There is also a sixth, and it is what invariably happens when the chairman/pianist Steve Race puts questions to his four old chums. Need I tell you what it is? Can it really be that you have never not even — heard My Music before? Let me tell you, then. My Music is only incidentally a test of musical knowledge. Fundamentally, it is a fusion of five warm and witty minds so well-tuned to each other that you cannot imagine them resuming their separate lives when the programme ends. Peter Daville

### RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright in the Morning 8.00am Simon Mayo 12.00am Lisa L'Amour, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat; and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nick Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 The Bruce Dickinson Rock Show 10.00 Simon Mayo's Big Holy Valentine Mid-night Club Surfers

### RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.45 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durr 7.30 News Over Britain (01645 285281) 8.30 M. Marry and Me (9) 9.00 Unforgettable Dave Gelly on Neil King Cole 10.00 My Music (1). See Choice 10.30 The Jamiesons 12.05am Steve Macdonald 3.00 Alex Lester

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.35 Euronews 11.00am News 12.00 Midday with Mar, including at 12.45pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, incl at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00pm News 4.55pm Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 sport 7.30 The Tuesday Match 8.35 Euro Football 9.10 News Talk 11.00 Night Express 11.45 Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05am All Night

### TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Dees with Carol McGiffin 10.00 Scott Chisham 1.00pm Anna Reebum 3.00pm Robert Boyd 4.00pm Samerina Mesh and Sean Boag 10.00pm Caesar the Geos 1.00am Wild At Kelly

### WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Internews 5.30am Newsworld 6.00am Morningmagazin 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Jean US Flore 7.30 News Ideas 7.50 The Life of Numbers 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Concert Hall 9.00 World News 9.05 Business Report 9.15 Essential Quran 9.30 On Screen 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Discovery 10.30 Ports of Call 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Mitagsmagazin 12.00 News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15 Mitagsmagazin 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf: Jean de Flore 2.45 Turning a Tune 3.00 News 3.15 A Jolly Good Show 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heale Akut 5.00 News 5.05 Business Report 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newsweek 6.30 Heale Akut 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.20 Andy Kerash's World of Music 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Europe Today 9.00 Newsworld 10.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.10 Newsweek 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 Omnibus 12.00 News 12.15am Concert Hall 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 What's News? 1.45 Countryfile 2.00 Newsweek 2.30 Andy Kerash's World of Music 3.15 Sport 3.30 Discovery 4.00 Newsweek

### CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Stone 2.00pm Lunchtime Concert 3.00pm Johnnie C. 6.00pm Classical 7.00pm The Opera Guide 8.00pm Evening Concert: Music for St Valentine's Day 10.00pm Mark Griffiths, 1.00am Robert Booth

### VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 11.00 9.00 Richard Skinner's Return 10.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Paul Gyles 11.00 Nick Abbot 2.00am Jenny Lee Grace

### RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: Playing the Marbles 6.55 Weather 7.00 On Air with Celine Young, Host (St Paul's Suite); Clara Schumann (Abercrombie); Venedic; Beethoven (Nine Variations on Queen's pl. bello, WoO69); Tchaikovsky (Festive Overture on the Danish National Hymn); Sor (Souvenir de Russie, Op 63); Janacek (Sinfonietta) 9.00 Composer of the Week: Berlioz: A Concerto with slightly Germanic connections 10.00 Musical Encounters, presented by Stephanie Hughes in discussion, including Thomas Linley (Overture, Ode on the Spirits of Shakespeare); 10.20 Artist of the Week: Malcolm Proul, harpsichord, plays Charles Wesley (Concerto in C: New Irish CO under John Lobbok); 10.30 Dvořák (Romance in F minor); Samuel Wesley (Symphony No 2 in D); 11.05 Poulenc (Trois); Malcolm Arnold (Symphony No 1) 12.00 Musical Encounters: The Orlando Consort with the organist James O'Donnell performs music from pre-Reformation England (1) 1.00pm City of London Sinfonia: Second in a series of concerts featuring music by 20th-century British composers, recorded in three churches in the City of London. 2.00 Schools: Playtime 2.15 Time to Move 2.35 Listen! 3.00 Some Verses of Pastoral: Piers Burton-Page explores the pastoral theme in British music. With excerpts from: Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Hindt, Tippett, Quilter, Vaughan Williams 5.00 The Music Machine: Barbara Hall, soprano, sings Thomas presents music for St Valentine's Day, and talks to the American soprano Shari Gershenfeld 7.30 Tippett: Visions of Paradise: A concert given last Sunday at the Barbican Hall, London, with David Baranacki, violin; Edward Vanderspar, viola; Moray Welsh, cello; London County Orchestra, conducted by Colin Davis performs Tippett (Triple Concerto); Elgar (Symphony No 1 in A flat) 9.15 Buongiorno, Tenore! The character singer John Dobson talks about his 35 years at Covent Garden 9.40 Aldeburgh Festival 1994: Barbara Hannigan, mezzo; Britten: Peter Grimes; Ravel (Introduction and Allegro); Stravinsky (Double Canon; Epitaphium); Jonathan Lloyd (Prelude for your dream); Respighi (Il Tramonto); Gershwin, an Richard Rodney Bennett (Maybe, soon; Who can I Embrace you, by Strauss) 10.45 Night Waves: Humphrey Carpenter on The Duchess of 11.30-12.30am The BBC Orchestra: BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Grant Llewellyn performs: Berlioz (Suite, Fancy Free); Copland (Suite, Billy the Kid) 1.00-2.10 Night School: History 9-11 1.40 Tales from Europe

### RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, incl 6.05 Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 8.55, 7.55 Weather 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Nick Rose: 9.05-9.15am News 9.15-9.25am News 9.25-9.35am News 9.35-9.45am News 9.45-9.55am News 9.55-10.05am News 10.05-10.15am News 10.15-10.25am News 10.25-10.35am News 10.35-10.45am News 10.45-10.55am News 10.55-11.05am News 11.05-11.15am News 11.15-11.25am News 11.25-11.35am News 11.35-11.45am News 11.45-11.55am News 11.55-12.05am News 12.05-12.15am News 12.15-12.25am News 12.25-12.35am News 12.35-12.45am News 12.45-12.55am News 12.55-1.05am News 1.05-1.15am News 1.15-1.25am News 1.25-1.35am News 1.35-1.45am News 1.45-1.55am News 1.55-2.05am News 2.05-2.15am News 2.15-2.25am News 2.25-2.35am News 2.35-2.45am News 2.45-2.55am News 2.55-3.05am News 3.05-3.15am News 3.15-3.25am News 3.25-3.35am News 3.35-3.45am News 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# Something old, new, borrowed and blue

Round at our house the game of "look, look, it's what's new, you know from what's new?" has suddenly become a lot easier. These days, I barely bother to look up as the familiar query drifts down from the other end of the sofa. "Riff Raff Element," I say with an air of nonchalant confidence. A quiet "oh yes" indicates that once again I'm right just this time.

Right just about every time, in fact — Debbie Horsfield's splendid off-beat drama may have fallen into the stony no-man's-land between smash hit and cult success, but it has done great things for the careers of its principal actors. Ronald Pickup in *Performance*, Richard Hope in *Time Before Bedtime*, Cal Macaninch in *Rik Mayall Presents*, Nicholas Farrell in *Ghost* and shortly *The Choir* and George Costigan in just about everything that requires a charismatic baddie with piercing eyes.

The credits just go on and on. Now, and not before time, it is the turn of Jayne Ashbourne to pursue her rare talent for turning northern chaps all week at the knees in *Blood and Peaches* (BBC 2).

*Blood and Peaches* is exactly what a vigorous, confident drama department should be making. It is written by a new and, as far as I know, unproven young writer, Martin Sadofski. And while it's good, it's not that good, which perversely is also an encouraging sign. *Blood and Peaches* is enjoyable enough, but his next should be better still.

Any new writer who kicks off a comic drama with an all too visual gag about a deep-fried cat is clearly not lacking for courage. Sadofski will need it. By setting his tale of recessionary rites of passage in a northern city, comparisons with *Plater* and *Bleasdale* are inevitable, justified and as yet unflattering. At times last night, there

also looked to be a distinct danger of a head-on collision with William Ivory's series *Common as Muck*.

But the debts don't stop there. Sue (Jayne Ashbourne), a young trainee nurse positively bursting with hormones, had fallen for her childhood friend, Steve (Stuart Laing). He wooed her with enthusiasm but a familiar lack of finesse: "You look nice with your hair up. I mean it looks nice down as well. Up, down — either." But it was the wise, younger sister to whom he turned for fashion advice that really gave the game away. *Gregory's Girl* had clearly made a big impression.

With a surreal musical interlude that was pure but inexplicable Potter and a clumsy attempt to mix humour with social horror (in this case, racism), *Blood and Peaches* was hardly lacking for voices. Picking out Sadofski's

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

was the problem. Still, he has a nice line in humour (I particularly liked the Brontës' brother "Bransford" — you know, the one who added the garage and there were some lovely performances, both from Ashbourne and Laing and particularly from Jason Done and Rosemary Leach as Gary and his Bradford Park Avenue-supporting Nan).

Over on Channel 4 it was clear

that we were in for a big episode of *NYPD Blue* when the supposedly helpful "Previously on *NYPD Blue*..." went on for a good two minutes, reprising scenes — for me at least — quite baffling antiquity. Never mind, even I, novice that I am, have found that, rather as with *Taggart*, it definitely pays to persevere.

We were there, of course, to bid farewell to David Caruso, who as Detective John Kelly must be the first male red-head to become a sex symbol since... hmmm, that's a tough one. Caruso is off to make it big in Hollywood, Kelly on the other hand, having finally been forced out by the chaps in Internal Affairs, just squeezed Detective Spivovick on the knee and wandered off down the stairs muttering something about clearing his locker later. Just for once, the series' hallmark, "Bernie the Bolt" camera work managed to get him in shot right up to the end.

But at least Kelly left as he had lived — muttering. A week ago, he suggested a Chinese colleague talk a little slower "so people know whadaya saying". Much the same could have been said if Caruso had opened his mouth a little wider. If nothing else, a hit rate of one word in three certainly keeps you concentrating.

Caruso may have gone but the wonderful support from Dennis Franz as the emotional but no longer tired Spivovick and James McDaniel as Lieutenant Fancy remains. Jimmy Smits, who wasn't in the *The Riff Raff Element* but was in *LA Law*, should have a soft landing when he arrives next week. Wonder what his diction's like.

Anything on a par with Arthur Miller's New York drawl and I should be all right. Miller, billed as the world's greatest living playwright, was the latest subject

for *Face to Face* (BBC 2) and he was clearly itself. Jeremy Isaacs, however, was not having one of his better nights, thrown perhaps by the stature, creativity and longevity of his subject. Where to start? Unwisely Isaacs chose to begin by assuming we had all seen Miller's latest play, *Broken Glass*, but once that elitist little obstacle was negotiated we were enjoyably away.

Motivation, his plays, the improvement in British theatre, the decline in American theatre and, of course, Marilyn Monroe were all covered with an economy of thought and word that must have kept Isaacs's eyes glued to his notepad, searching for the next question. We may not have learnt much that was new, but with questions that ranged from "Who was your mother?" to "Is all great art founded in a morality?", no one could accuse Isaacs of not trying.

## BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (27606)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (62643820)
- 9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (9161511)
- 10.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (7164620). 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick Owen (s) (88713356)
- 12.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1056646). 12.05 Pebble Mill. Gloria Hunniford with a special St Valentine's Day edition (s) (2262288)
- 12.55 Regional News and weather (7364578)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (88004)
- 1.30 News (CeeFax) (s) (82182627). 1.50 Timespeakers. Quiz programme introduced by Bill Dod (s) (82186443)
- 2.15 FILM: How to Commit Marriage (1969) starring Bob Hope, Jackie Gleason and Jane Wyman. Comedy about a couple who decide to divorce after 20 years of marriage only to have to put it on hold when their daughter announces her engagement. Directed by Norman Panama (242066)
- 3.50 Jackanory. Rik Mayall with part two of Kaye Umansky's story *The Fugitive Prince* (s) (8848172). 4.00 Willy Foggy (CeeFax) (2466733). 4.25 Gimmie (4406578). 4.35 Incredible Games (CeeFax) (s) (5675085)
- 5.00 Newsround (7312240). 5.10 Grange Hill. Comprehensive school drama serial. (CeeFax) (s) (9755820)
- 5.35 Newsround (s) (CeeFax) (s) (259482)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (917)
- 6.30 Regional news magazine (269)
- 7.00 Holiday. Reports from the Gower Peninsula, Costa de Prata, San Francisco and a working holiday on a kibbutz near Tel Aviv. (CeeFax) (s) (81820)
- 7.30 EastEnders. (CeeFax) (s) (153)
- 8.00 A Question of Sport. David Coleman, Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham are joined by Frankie Dettori, Brian Moore, Stuart McCall and David Coulthard. (CeeFax) (s) (7240)
- 8.30 Alibi. (CeeFax) (s) (6375)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (705)

## BBC2

- 8.20 Open University: Maths — Symbols and Equations (736578). 8.45 Panel Panel! (8005424). 7.10 Changing Experience of Education (899733)
- 8.00 BBC Breakfast News. (CeeFax and signing) (756172). 8.15 Westminster On-Line With Sir Bernard Ingham. The guests are Edwina Currie and Pauline Green (s) (4156172)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (2110917). 2.00 Gordon T. Gopher (2827688)
- 2.10 Horizon (s). (CeeFax) (s) (2545289)
- 2.50 News (CeeFax) and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross. (CeeFax) (6110795)
- 3.50 News (CeeFax) and weather (3846714)
- 4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (882)
- 4.30 Regional programmes. Repeated from Thursday at 7.30 (406). Northern Ireland: The Way That I Went. Wales: Week in Week Out
- 5.00 Children's Hospital. Last in the series from Sheffield Children's Hospital. (CeeFax) (s) (8998)
- 5.30 Catchword. Word game show (s) (646)
- 6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. American teen comedy (s) (782356)
- 6.25 Heartbreak High. Drama serial set in an Australian inner-city school. (CeeFax) (s) (919375)
- 7.10 The Tick. Animated adventures (s) (333424)
- 7.30 Under the Covers. People from all over the country share their passions and traumas on the subject of reading. (CeeFax) (795)
- 8.00 Public Eye: Big Trouble in Little Schools. Mike Embley reports on the increase in the number of children being expelled from school, some as young as six. (CeeFax) (5882)
- 8.30 Food and Drink with Chris Kelly, Jilly Gooden and Michael Barry. (CeeFax) (s) (4917)
- 9.00 Sykes. sitcom starring Eric Sykes, Hattie Jacques, Peter Sellers and Derek Guyler. (CeeFax) (5627)

## CHOICE

**Horizon Special: Twice Born**  
BBC2, 9.30pm  
Producer Deborah Cadbury's foray into some of the more contentious areas of surgery starts with a pregnant woman in the United States. Jill Crosland was told her baby had a tumour on its lung. The solution was open womb surgery. The baby was partially removed from the womb so that the lung could be taken out and then returned. Mother and child have both done well, though the operation is risky with a success rate of less than half. Even more radical ideas are being explored. One is transplanting cells from aborted fetuses to unborn babies. Another is giving cells from sheep or pig to human fetuses. Beyond that is the prospect of producing a human being without a mother having to be involved.



Refugees from Iraq and Bosnia (TV, 10.40pm)

**Network First: Desperately Seeking Asylum**  
ITV, 10.40pm  
Britain's treatment of political refugees comes under attack in a film which claims that most asylum-seekers are criminals, fewer and fewer are granted sanctuary. A solicitor who acts in such cases calls it "a shameful area". Last year more than 22,000 people applied for asylum and only 1,600 were successful. The Home Office says that only a small number of the refugees are genuine. This is disputed by a charity which tries to help them. Whatever the figures, the human stories are often dreadful. A Sri Lankan woman fled to Britain after her husband was killed and her house destroyed in the Sri Lankan civil war. Her young daughters are in India. As she was refused asylum, they cannot join her here for four years.

**The Way We Were**  
Channel 4, 4.00pm  
Tucked away in the afternoon, where it might easily be missed, this diverting but series on British institutions profiles the Oxford Union. Barbara Castle once dismissed it as the cadet class of the establishment. David Walter, a former president, calls it a narrow, elitist little society where being witty and clever can mask real knowledge. But it has been a nursery for some of the most distinguished political figures of the past 150 years. Its presidents have included Winston Churchill, Clement Attlee, Gladstone, Heath, as well as, despite Baroness Castle, such non-establishment figures as Michael Foot, Tony Benn and Tariq Ali. The programme is an enjoyable mix of reminiscence, anecdote and archive footage.

**A Wild Romance**  
BBC1, 9.30pm  
The actress Siobhan Redmond narrates a St Valentine's Day offering which looks at "love" and fidelity in the natural world. Pairing off and staying together is rare in the animal kingdom and infidelities abound. Many birds, including wrens and bluebirds, are unfaithful and a snow goose nest shows clear evidence that not all the goslings were produced by the same two parents. Swans, on the other hand, usually mate for life and, after a long courtship to find the right partner, tend to remain as couples for 30 years. The programme is a charming and informative look at that different from that of the human race, whose amorous ups and downs are amusingly charred in clips from old Hollywood films. Peter Waymark

## CARLTON

- 6.00 GMTV (1698801)
- 9.25 Chain Letters. Word game with Ted Robbins (s) (4958882). 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2197066)
- 10.00 The Time... The Place (4214733)
- 10.35 This Morning (90358443)
- 12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1045530)
- 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (4971337)
- 12.55 Emmerdale (s) (Teletext) (4983556). 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (61538882)
- 1.55 Vanessa (s) (7627217). 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (6194801). 2.50 Blue Heelers. Australian police drama (9766482)
- 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (7425546). 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (742917)
- 3.30 The Magic House (s) (9513330). 3.40 Tots TV (s) (3844356). 3.50 Twinkle the Dream Being (s) (3832340). 4.00 Bugle the Little Helicopter (4156337). 4.15 The Dreamstone (Teletext) (s) (6737676). 4.40 Chris Cross (Teletext) (s) (2283266)
- 5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (7192628)
- 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) (590356)
- 5.55 Your Show. Viewers' opinions (415172)
- 6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (135)
- 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (337)
- 7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (3288)
- 7.30 The Big Story. Dermot Mulroney investigates a Tory disaster (s) (649)
- 8.00 The Bill: A Fighting Chance. Marshall breaks a suspect's refusal but has she injured an innocent man? (Teletext) (9608)
- 8.30 September Song. Billy plots his revenge on Cyril Wendage. (Teletext) (s) (1443)



Simon Shepherd and Judy Brooke (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Peak Practice. Feelings run high when a group of former psychiatric patients move into the village, and Will treats a teenager with an infected tattoo. With Kevin Whately, Amanda Burton, Simon Shepherd and Judy Brooke. (Teletext) (s) (1917)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (44191)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (436761)
- 10.40 Network First: Desperately Seeking Asylum (Teletext) (836884)
- 11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H. Meg is freed from her captors (384649)
- 12.40 FILM: No Margin for Error (1978). A police chief launches an inquiry into the behaviour of his officers after two innocent people die in police shoot outs. With Glenn Ford, Harry Guardino and James Farentino (883880)
- 2.25 The Little Picture Show, with Marielle Frostrup (791393)
- 3.20 America's Top Ten (s) (8973863)
- 3.45 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (43197047)
- 4.10 On the Live Side (s) (3593646)
- 4.30 Videofashion (50331)
- 5.00 Vanessa (s) (Teletext) (s) (47979)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (82405)

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Sandokan. Animated adventures of a pirate prince (s) (8008240)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (21375)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (s) (s) (21240)
- 9.30 Schools. Eureka! (5365066). 9.45 Slop, Look, Listen (5393849). 10.00 Fourways Farm (7148882). 10.10 Maths Everywhere (8287725). 10.25 How We Use (4037022). 10.45 Coming Together (1855795). 11.00 Science in Focus (8232714). 11.22 Steps One (2307029). 11.38 Schools at Work (9136795). 11.45 First Edition (3235191)
- 12.00 House To House. Political magazine series, introduced by Maya Even (41004)
- 12.30 Sesame Street. Early learning entertainment. The guest is Billy Joel (10375). 1.30 Widgey. Animated ecological adventures (s) (s) (83927004)
- 1.55 On A Wing and a Prayer. The story of the pioneer American pilot Amelia Earhart (s) (7190573)
- 2.10 FILM: The Frogmen (1951, b/w) starring Richard Widmark, Dana Andrews and Jeffrey Hunter. Second World War action drama about a group of frogmen from the Underwater Demolition Team and their exploits against the Japanese in the Pacific. Directed by Lloyd Bacon. (Teletext) (992424)
- 4.00 The Way We Were (s) (578)
- 4.30 Countdown. Richard Whitley with another round of the words and numbers game. (Teletext) (s) (482)
- 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are lovers who have been separated by time and distance (s) (Teletext) (s) (7731648)
- 5.50 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (405795)
- 6.00 Babyfests. 5. Award-winning American science-fiction adventures. (Teletext) (s) (472289)
- 6.55 Terrytoons featuring Deputy Dawg (856678)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (73820)
- 7.50 The Slot. Viewer access series (395424)



Richard Whitley in perspective (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Classic Trucks. The final programme of the series focuses on monster trucks. (Teletext) (s) (8838)
- 8.30 Brookside. Mandy and Beth have an appointment in court. (Teletext) (s) (9085)
- 9.00 Visions Of Heaven and Hell. The last in the series looking at the technological future. (Teletext) (s) (9559)
- 10.00 FILM: Bonds of Love (1992) starring Treat Williams and Kelly McGillis. A made-for-television drama about the family of a mentally handicapped man trying to stop his romance with a twice-married woman. Directed by Larry Ellman. (Teletext) (s) (713355)
- 11.45 Backstreet PD. California police comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (49417)
- 12.15am Football Italia — Mezzanotte. Highlights of the Serie A game between Napoli and Cremonese (38757)
- 1.15 Blood, Sweat And Glory. The sporting traditions of North America (s) (6791196)
- 1.50 FILM: Dreaming (1944, b/w). Wartime comedy starring Flanagan and Allen with Hazel Court. Directed by John Baxter (7030592). Ends at 3.10

## VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**  
As London except: 9.05-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 12.20-12.30 Anglia News (915820). 2.30-3.30 Anglia News (915820). 5.30-6.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 7.30-8.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 9.30-10.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 10.30-11.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 11.30-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 12.30-1.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 1.30-2.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 2.30-3.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 3.30-4.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 4.30-5.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 5.30-6.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 6.30-7.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 7.30-8.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 8.30-9.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 9.30-10.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 10.30-11.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 11.30-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 12.30-1.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 1.30-2.30 Anglia News and Weather (915820). 2.30-3.30 Anglia News 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## Mushtaq 'joked' about bribe with Border

By SIMON WILDE, JAN RAATH IN HARARE  
AND ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE allegations of bribery levelled against Pakistanis by Australian cricketers and press are threatening to expose the cultural and emotional divisions between Occident and Orient no less ably than ball-tampering did three years ago. Allan Border's claim that he was offered £500,000 to "throw" a Test match in Birmingham in 1993. Mushtaq Mohammad's admission that he was the man responsible, not to mention the separate allegations involving the Australian team in Pakistan last year, are quite enough to undermine preparations for the World Cup on the Asian subcontinent in 1996.

Border's disclosure yesterday in a Sydney newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, that he had been offered money to ensure that Australia lost the fifth Test match against England during their last tour reverberated around the world. The size of the alleged bribe dwarfed those said to have been on offer in Pakistan and led to calls by officials in Melbourne and Lahore, and Harare and Bridgetown, to deal with the matter swiftly.

This involved a considerable amount of buck-passing. The Test and County Cricket Board said it was a matter for the Australian authorities; the Australians said it was in the hands of the International Cricket Council; the Pakistanis said the Australians should have informed them earlier; Intikhab Alam, manager of the

Pakistan team in Zimbabwe, demanded the Australians name names; and the ICC said it needed more information, but is investigating the matter.

It also flushed out Dean Jones, the Victoria captain, who said that he had been offered about £30,000 by an Indian bookmaker to reveal inside information about the Australia side during a tour of Sri Lanka in 1992. He had refused the offer, he said, and informed Australian officials.

Eventually, the buck came to a halt, temporarily, in Birmingham, where Mushtaq, a former Test captain, works for Pakistan International Airlines. He admitted to being the man who had talked to Border. Australia needed 109 runs with all wickets standing on the fifth

day at Edgbaston and Mushtaq said he had asked Border what he would do "if someone was to offer him a lot of money to lose".

"Allan said he never messed around with his cricket and I said neither did I," Mushtaq said. "It was just a hypothetical conversation, nothing was offered by me on anyone's behalf. I meant it as a joke." If it was a joke, Border did not get it. He dismissed the "offer" curtly and was, according to one of his team, "fuming". Australia won the match by eight wickets. Border said yesterday: "I got a bit of a shock because something like that had never happened before. In the end we [the Australian team] laughed it off."

The split that has now occurred between Pakistan officials and the ICC

will challenge the skills of David Richards, the ICC's chief executive. Arif Abbasi, a member of the ad hoc committee of the Pakistan board in Lahore, said Graham Halbish, the Australian Cricket Board's chief executive, had told him from Melbourne that Richards had known of the allegations for more than five months.

Richards has been sitting on this information, Abbasi said. "He didn't know what to do with it and this country is having to bear the brunt of his ineptitude." Richards was elsewhere reported as saying he had only just learnt of the allegations, a claim supported by Sir Clyde Walcott, the ICC chairman, in Bridgetown.

Although no player has yet admitted to

having accepted a bribe, there is a serious issue here for the ICC to address. Mushtaq conceded that he knows vast bets are laid on cricket in India, Pakistan and Sharjah and that "people make offers". How long will it be before a player finally does accept a bribe?

If India and Pakistan have problems with illegal syndicates, then players taking part in the World Cup, which opens a year today, are possible targets. The tournament has already been plagued with disputes over television contracts and may be threatened further by ethnic unrest. If it is to run smoothly, it will require the Pakistan board and the ICC to talk with one voice.

New Zealand crushed, page 40

## England fall in behind Welsh World Cup bid

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WALES will host the 1999 Rugby World Cup if the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) decides next month that the tournament should return to the British Isles. The Welsh bid goes to the board today, supported by England, who had initially sought to host the 1999 tournament themselves.

The meeting, in London, of the four home unions over the weekend found Wales and England, natural geographic and legal allies, reaching an accord. "We will support Wales's bid to host the event and stage the final," Dudley Wood, the secretary of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), said yesterday. "We have agreed to withdraw our bid, though it remains to be seen

who will be involved and how."

The decision is of enormous significance for Wales, not only in sporting and commercial terms but in the proposed development of their existing national stadium at the Arms Park, in Cardiff. The prospect of such a global event going to the Principality could do much to encourage the release of Government funds for the refurbishment, not only of the Arms Park, but of other leading club grounds.

England's concession comes after detailed discussions about the Welsh proposal, but also as a result of the moral dilemma in which they were left by the unofficial blessing given to a Welsh bid in 1993 by the late John Kendall-Carpenter

in 1988, when he was chairman of Rugby World Cup Ltd. "We are currently resolving how the matches will be divided, but we intend to use all four home countries," Vernon Pugh, the chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU), said.

Pugh is content that differences with the legal and taxation systems in Scotland and Ireland can be overcome, though pressures from those two countries that their share of the tournament should equal those of Wales and England could be resisted. A powerful French bid, supported by Italy, will also receive close consideration from the IRFB next month, as will the Australia-led conglomerate.

By that time, the WRU will have decided which of five presentations on the redevelopment of Cardiff Arms Park to accept a month later, it will also decide whether the agreed proposal is sufficiently strong to ignore two offers for the removal of Welsh rugby's headquarters to a new purpose-built site in the Bridgend area, which would have better road, rail and air access.

"I hope the Welsh bid gets as much support as possible," Wood said. "On balance, it seems a good idea to alternate the tournament between the two hemispheres, but Australia are making a serious bid, with the support of New Zealand and Japan."

The five nations are as near as they have ever been to pushing their international championship back in the calendar. France and Scotland support England's proposal to begin the championship in the first week of February, and Ireland agree. Wales — who seek to start it even later — will not stand in the way.

South Africa's World Cup hopes suffered a setback yesterday when Uli Schmidt, 34, the experienced hooker, was forced to retire because of a nagging neck injury.

A statement issued by the South African Rugby Football Union said: "His withdrawal at the start of our campaign for the rugby World Cup is obviously a blow, but his health takes precedence and we fully support him for making the right decision."



Beardsley, left, and Barmby, who may succeed him in the England team, together after training yesterday. Photograph: Des Jensen

## Blushing time for Barmby

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PETER BEARDSLEY yesterday nominated Nick Barmby as his successor in the England football team, causing the Tottenham Hotspur player to wriggle with a mixture of embarrassment and pride as he sat next to the Newcastle United veteran, on whom he has modelled his style.

Beardsley's comments came after the England training session at Bisham Abbey in preparation for the game with the Republic of Ireland in Dublin tomorrow. "He stood out in training, he looked absolutely top class," Beardsley said. "It was everything he did — his touch on

the ball, his runs and his vision."

The speed of Barmby's development could threaten Beardsley's hopes of adding many more to his 53 caps. However, he recognises the same qualities of awareness, resilience and finishing which have been features of his own career. "I definitely see myself in him," Beardsley said. "This season, he's stood out in a team of great forward players. He hasn't been overawed and, at his age, that's incredible."

Barmby, 20, recalling his days at the FA National School, said: "When I was at Lilleshall, we used to go and watch Liverpool when Peter was playing for them. He was

my favourite player and he has been such a great player throughout his career that you can't help but learn from him."

Jack Charlton, the manager of the Republic of Ireland, has only 16 players to choose from following the withdrawal yesterday of Ray Houghton, the Aston Villa midfielder player, with a calf injury.

Eric Cantona has threatened to sue ITN for libel and invasion of privacy after his fracas with a camera crew while on holiday in Guadeloupe, Jean-Jacques Bertrand, his lawyer, said yesterday.

Barnes's new role, page 42  
Overseas football, page 42

## SRU wants check on payment claims

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) is to ask its French counterpart to investigate a newspaper claim that a Scottish player based in France is being paid by his club.

Kevin Campbell, the brother of Alistair Campbell, the Hawick and former Scotland lock, was quoted as saying: "I receive £800 a month from my club, Mandelieu, to play in the first division."

The story follows hard on the heels of another payments revelation which will be made in a forthcoming BBC Scotland documentary, *For Love and Money*. In the programme, René Bouscatel, the Toulouse president, says: "We have a fixed monthly amount which covers time lost by players through training and loss of earnings."

Bouscatel also discusses a match bonus based on results. Ironically, the stories have emerged just as the SRU began to make overtures to soften their hard line on amateurism. "We will be recommending that top players should benefit from off the field rugby-related activities," Bill Hogg, the SRU chief executive, said yesterday.

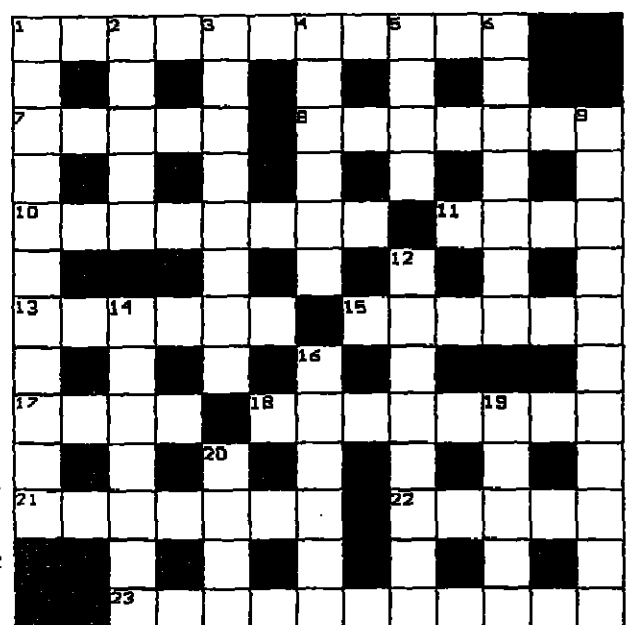
"The SRU also thinks no top player should lose out financially. We are in favour of compensating players adequately for loss of earnings."

At present, under International Rugby Football Board regulations, players are entitled to a daily allowance when on tour and are also able to apply for a hardship allowance, although neither amounts to much in real terms.

The two injured Scottish scrum halves, Gary Armstrong and Andy Nicol, both received encouraging reports after a weekend meeting with SRU medical advisers. The players are recovering from respective operations to repair severe knee ligament and cartilage damage and there is optimism that Nicol might play again in mid-March and Armstrong a month later.

However, neither player can realistically consider inclusion in Scotland's World Cup party after missing an entire international season.

Mark Ring, the former Wales centre, who was sacked by Pontypool last month for undisclosed reasons, has rejoined Cardiff.

TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORD  
No 395

## ACROSS

- 1 Vigorous work (esp. rubbing) (5,6)
- 7 One past saving (5)
- 8 Flourish of trumpets (7)
- 10 Mozart's amorous Don (8)
- 11 Feeble; walk painfully (4)
- 13 Consternation (6)
- 15 Run headlong; progress through life (6)
- 17 Malevolent giant (4)
- 18 Girl one sponsors (8)
- 21 Force (material) out (7)
- 22 One patient under misfortune (5)
- 23 Without enthusiasm (4-7)

## DOWN

- 1 Sound of busy (phone) line (7,4)
- 2 Drum played on knee (5)
- 3 Ordinary, for practical use (8)
- 4 Return of money (6)
- 5 Female relative (4)
- 6 Look at closely (7)
- 9 Well-practised (11)
- 12 Free-form musical piece; Disney film (8)
- 14 Make longer; term of prison (7)
- 16 Rifle part, behind barrel (6)
- 19 Phantom (5)
- 20 Formal fight for two (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 394

ACROSS: 1 Back number 8 Annular 9 Dense 10 Tweak 11 Fearless 13 Mire 14 Dally 16 Knitting 17 Scum 20 De-or 21 Vaulted 22 By and large

DOWN: 1 Blast 2 Concert pitch 3 Null 4 Marker 5 Eldorado 6 Interlocutor 7 Measly 12 Death-ray 13 Make do 15 Uneven 18 Midge 19 Pull

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Spassky - Milic, Dresden 1964.

This is a tricky endgame position. If White plays 1. b5/Q Bxb5+ 2. Kxb5 c2 3. Bxc2 Kx6 and Black draws. How can White improve on this sequence?

Solution, page 40  
Raymond Keene, page 7

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

## BIBLICALS

- ELIEZER  
a. A mighty warrior  
b. A match-maker  
c. A very minor prophet

## ISSACHAR

- a. Progenitor of a tribe  
b. A cry of despair  
c. An Assyrian witch

## MOAB

- a. A fairly minor prophet  
b. A son of his sister  
c. A heathen idol  
ABNER  
a. A 171 man  
b. Kingdom east of the Jordan  
c. A general

Answers on page 40

"I SAVED £84" Mc J. Dundas.

"I SAVED £104" Mc C. Smyth.

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# No bed of roses as Snugglebugs and Bambi draw blood

VALENTINE'S Day at Prime Minister's Questions is always a special occasion. It is the MPs' chance to send each other little coded messages, like "I hate you", "I hate you truly much", or "I hate you truly, madly, deeply".

Dennis Skinner got the jollies off to a swinging start. Immediately after prayers, a whip, Sydney Chapman, processed, bowing, to the Table. As Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household his job is to convey messages from the Palace to the Speaker, and

he had Her Majesty's Royal Assent to a number of Bills, to report. Chapman wore morning dress and carried what is known as the Wand: a very long, slender stick. As Chapman, holding his Wand, prepared for his first bow, Dennis Skinner leapt up, apparently chalking the end of the stick as though it were a billiard cue.

Minutes later Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C, Lancaster) added to the fun by beating up Virginia Bottomley. Nostrils flared and breast

heaving, the elderly MP rose on the first Question to the Health Secretary, glowering in Mrs B's direction. "Does my Rt hon colleague..." she began...

"Rt hon Friend," corrected a voice behind her. "Colleague," said Kellett-Bowman. This Dame was angry. Angry because Bottomley had been "unfortunately too busy" to receive in person that morning a petition about the threatened closure of blood transfusion centres. Dame Elaine spoke of "criminal folly,"

and sat there, smouldering. Elaine's message to Virginia, scarcely coded, was "snugglebugs does NOT love Ginny".

Dame Elaine is an enthusiast for blood transfusion and doubtless a generous donor herself. Dear reader, should you, after an accident, wake up in intensive care and become conscious of your

nostrils flaring involuntarily, your eyebrows beeling wildly up and down, and a fierce urge to sink your teeth into the nearest shin, ask where they got the blood.

The next Valentine message was equally discouraging. It was delivered to the sweet-natured and rounded junior health minister John Bawls,

and came from a moustache knight of the shires, Sir Anthony Grant (C, SW Cambs). Decoded, this read "Ant nips Cuddlebear". Waving his Order Paper, Sir Anthony berated Mr Bawls on the subject of the transfer of psychiatric patients to Addenbrookes Hospital. The code in which Cuddlebear's reply was couched (about "revolving door cases of the seriously mentally ill") sounded alarming.

PM's Questions came next. This featured a dismaying

exchange of scarcely coded anti-Valentines between John "Rabbit" Major and Tony "Bambi" Blair. Bambi sent Rabbit four simply horrid messages, apparently about Britain's poor, but actually on the theme of "Bambi thinks Rabbit's a real meanie-poo". Rabbit sent Bambi four messages back, apparently containing meaningless statistics, but actually saying "Sod off, Bambi".

Only the Tories' Peter Thurnham (Bolton NE) seemed to have grasped the

spirit of Valentine's Day. Presenting Madam Speaker with a rolled copy of his Landlord and Tenant (Covenants) Bill, he also presented her with a single red rose. Surprised, Miss Boothroyd took it — and the card that came with it.

None of us knows what the card said. Your sketchwriter peered down, hoping to be able to read Mr Thurnham's writing. I think — but may well be wrong — that it said "Large Woolly Bear wants Pink Piglet for lots of cuddles and spoons".

## MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

## Major says Brussels must honour pledge on border controls

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND RICHARD FORD

JOHN MAJOR issued a warning yesterday that he would ensure the rest of the European Union kept to its word and allowed Britain to retain its immigration and border controls.

The Prime Minister moved to pre-empt today's announcement of new European Commission plans to ban frontier controls by making plain that he would fight to maintain Britain's rights. He said in the Commons that the 1985 declaration on immigration was "solemnly entered into by all the heads of government of other European countries".

He added: "They pledge their words and I intend that they will keep them."

Meanwhile, it was claimed yesterday that illegal immigration into the United Kingdom had reached almost 40,000 people a year. Peter Tompkins, the former chief inspector of the immigration service at the Home Office, said that government figures failed to disclose the full extent of immigration and that the Home Office had resisted efforts to discover the true scale of the problem.

In an interview with *The Times* he said that immigration officers caught only about one in seven of the illegal immigrants coming to Britain each year. Mr Tompkins, head of the immigration service until 1991, said that while



Downing Street yesterday named Richard Page, above, as the successor to Charles Wardle, who resigned as Trade Minister at the weekend. Mr Page, 53, MP for Hertfordshire South West, was Parliamentary Private Secretary to John Biffen, Leader of the House, between 1982 and 1987.

the smuggling of immigrants was increasing, most illegal entrants arrived at ports and airports with forged documents or claiming to be students or visitors.

"The government figures do not show the extent of entry into Britain and no one in the Home Office wants to do anything about trying to estimate how many illegal immigrants are in the United Kingdom," he said.

The latest statistics produced by the immigration service indicate that at least

68,215 people were allowed to stay, permanently or temporarily, in the United Kingdom in 1993.

A total of 55,600 people were accepted for settlement in 1993, an increase of 3,000 on 1992. More than 14,000 came from the Indian sub-continent, 10,790 from Africa and 8,680 from other Asian countries.

Although only 1,490 requests for asylum were granted out of 23,405 applications considered, a further 11,125 people were given exceptional leave to remain in the country. More than 10,500 people had their asylum application turned down. The number of illegal entrants detected rose from 5,600 to 5,700 between 1992 and 1993. The number of people removed from the country under enforcement powers was 6,076 in 1993.

Morale among immigration officers has plummeted as they try to enforce controls while watching blatant abuse, particularly of requests for asylum.

Martin Slade, deputy general secretary of the Immigration Service Union, condemned what he called "this lie that we have very strict laws. On paper they may appear strict but the reality is different. If European borders open we'll be swamped. Many illegal aliens say they are here on holiday, to study or to visit relatives, then later claim political asylum."

European frontiers, page 10



Sir Patrick Mayhew, left, and Michael Ancram, right, with Dick Spring at their meeting in Belfast yesterday

## MPs condemn 'nationalist agenda'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

ULSTER Unionists complained to John Major yesterday that the framework document being drawn up by London and Dublin was a "nationalist agenda".

They are expected to tell him that unless there are substantial changes in the proposals over the next few days they would see little point in taking part in the next stage of the talks. The threat would represent a big setback to Mr Major's hopes of securing a lasting settlement.

It was clear after the lengthy meeting between Mr Major and three Unionist MPs that he had failed to reassure them about the contents of the

document. Although they said little publicly afterwards it is understood that the MPs, David Trimble, William Ross and the Rev Martin Smyth told Mr Major that the document had nothing in it for the Unionists.

Mr Major has repeatedly made plain that the document is not a blueprint and can be changed during the talks process, and will ultimately be subject to a referendum. One Unionist source said the three MPs had come away from the meeting "profoundly depressed" although it had been a perfectly civil encounter. Asked if Mr Major had been able to reassure the

Unionists over their concerns Mr Trimble said: "Not in the slightest."

In another development yesterday, Senator Edward Kennedy pleaded with President Clinton to lift the restrictions on fund-raising in the United States by Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Féin. At the same time, a senior British Government official went to the White House to urge that the ban should remain in place until there is tangible evidence that the IRA is giving up its stockpile of weapons and explosives.

White House aides were unable to say which side would prevail in the dispute.

They acknowledged there were still issues of concern about letting Mr Adams raise funds. Mr Clinton is in the awkward position of coming under pressure from a powerful Democratic senator and others in Congress while not wanting to upset the British.

Mr Adams's US visa containing the fund-raising restriction is scheduled to expire on March 3. He is seeking an extension without the prohibition to attend a charity dinner in New York state on March 13, possibly followed by participation in a St Patrick's Day parade. He could even be invited to the St Patrick's day lunch in Congress.

## Euro row

Continued from page 1

until 1999 at the earliest. Mr George also calmed the fears of right-wing Tories who suspect that Mr Clarke might be following in the footsteps of Nigel Lawson, who, as Chancellor in the late 1980s, shadowed the mark.

The governor left MPs with the strong impression that domestic inflation, rather than exchange-rate movements, was the main factor behind interest-rate decisions. MPs were reassured that the pound's weakness against the mark did not automatically mean that another rate rise was on the way.

Mr George described himself as Euro-agnostic. He suggested that Britain could prosper outside a single currency, provided its monetary policy and inflation rate were stable.

He said, however, that initially interest rates might have to be slightly higher if Britain remained outside a single currency. Once the markets accepted the credibility of a purely domestic monetary policy, it should be possible to bring them into line with European rates. The MPs were also told that the City of London could survive if sterling did not enter a single currency.

Yesterday, sterling slid to DM2.375, well below its lowest point in 1994 of DM2.370. Foreign exchange dealers are now targeting the pound's all-time low against the German currency of DM2.3147, which happened early in 1993. The FTSE-100 index of leading shares closed down 9.8 points at 3,071.3 as investors focused on sterling's woes and key statistics today for inflation and high street sales.

Business News, page 25  
Pennington, page 27

## Minister pledges NHS job fairness

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government promised more openness in appointments for top jobs in the health service yesterday as the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life examined claims that NHS trusts had been packed with Tory supporters.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, announced that from April vacancies for chairmen and non-executive directors of trust hospitals and health authorities would be advertised. She made the announcement as the committee was hearing evidence from Alan Langlands, the chief executive of the NHS.

Members of the committee feared that the measures did not go far enough to restore public confidence. They had been told by officials that the Government had vetoed up to one in ten of the recommendations for appointment made by chairmen of Regional Health Authorities.

Mrs Bottomley made it clear that she will continue to remain ultimately responsible for deciding who is appointed

to trusts and health authorities. Almost 4,000 appointments are made by her or on her behalf. About 93 per cent of the posts carry some form of remuneration.

"Appointees must be drawn from as wide a pool as possible and the public must be satisfied that the process of selection has been objective and fair," she said.

□ Doubts about the capacity of the NHS to meet the new patient's charter guarantee on waiting times were raised yesterday as latest figures showed that 3,000 patients were awaiting treatment after more than 18 months at the end of last year. Under the new guarantee announced last month by Mrs Bottomley, no patient should wait longer than 18 months for treatment after April 1. The worst affected region is Northern and Yorkshire, which had 1,446 patients who had been waiting for more than 18 months in December.

Letters, page 17

## Sharp drop in calf and sheep exports

EXPORTS of calves and sheep to the Continent have fallen sharply because of the campaign of protest against the trade by animal rights activists (Michael Hornsby writes).

The Meat and Livestock Commission disclosed yesterday that calf exports were down about 30 per cent — to 7,000 a week — from their peak in 1993, and sheep ex-

ports by up to 50 per cent. In a report it called for more research to see if the white veal favoured on the Continent could be reared here without infringing animal welfare regulations.

The report came as William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, met his French counterpart, Jean Pouchet, to try to persuade him that continental methods of calf-rearing were cruel and should be banned.

After two hours of talks in London, Mr Waldegrave admitted that no quick end to the cross-Channel dispute over animal welfare was in sight, though he remained optimistic that European opinion was moving in Britain's favour. He had "very good hopes" that the EU's veterinary committee would recommend a ban on veal crates before the year's end.

## 1,100 Navy jobs lost in depot closures

About 1,100 jobs are to be lost with the closure of several Royal Navy storage depots, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, confirmed yesterday. Three depots, at Eaglescliffe in Cleveland, Wrangston in Devon, and Exeter, are to close by April 1997. A new central storage facility is to be created at Portsmouth. Mr Soames said in a Commons written answer that the closures would proceed in spite of a campaign by local MPs. The savings would amount to £170 million over ten years and £24 million a year thereafter.

Generals face axe, page 1

## No aid for needle baby

An appeals board has refused to grant legal aid to the baby whose parents claim he was sent home from Trevelick Hospital, Truro, with a hypodermic needle inside him. The legal aid board, which met last week, says the application on behalf of seven-week-old Benjamin Jones, is premature and there is insufficient evidence of injury.

## Wilde's abbey honour

The theatrical and literary world thronged Westminster Abbey yesterday to celebrate the acceptance of Oscar Wilde into Poets' Corner. At a service of dedication for a stained-glass memorial window, the poet Seamus Heaney paid tribute to Wilde's dialogue, which he said is to our speech "as ozone is to stale air".

Leading article, page 17

## Wall crushes schoolgirl

An eight-year-old girl died yesterday after a garden wall collapsed on her when it was hit by a lorry. Gemma Jenkins, left, was walking with other children in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, when the back of the lorry hit the wall as the driver, Paul Woodham, 38, of Shirebrook, Derbyshire, attempted to avoid parked cars. Police said: "No one has been charged, this was a tragic accident."

## 160mph biker banned

A motorcyclist caught riding his Honda Fireblade at 160mph was banned from driving for two years yesterday by magistrates in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. Anthony Pearce, 31, of Walmley, West Midlands, was ordered to pay £45 costs and to take an extended driving test before he can again hold a full licence.

## Love's labours lost in post

For those who failed to receive a Valentine's card yesterday, consolation may be at hand. A backlog of more than 500,000 letters and parcels has built up after an unofficial strike by postal workers. The Royal Mail went to the High Court yesterday to gain an injunction against 400 workers who walked out in an illegal stoppage in Cardiff.

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## High Court plea on Guinness fortune

## Daughters dispute £15m trust fund of marchioness

By Emma Wilkins

THE family of Maureen, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, began legal proceedings yesterday to challenge her right to leave her grandchildren a fortune estimated at £15 million.

Lady Dufferin, 88, who lives in Knightsbridge, west London, wants to settle a family trust fund in favour of her two granddaughters, Evgenia Sands, 30, and Ivana Citkovitz, 28, who live in America.

The move was challenged in the Chancery Division of the High Court in London yesterday by Lady Dufferin's daughters, Lady Caroline Lowell and Lady Perdita Blackwood, and her daughter-in-law, Lady Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava.

Lady Caroline, 63, who was married to Lucian Freud, the artist, is a Citkovitz, the American composer, and later to Robert Lowell, the American poet, is party to the proceedings despite the fact that it is her two daughters who could benefit from their grandmother's action.

Lady Perdita, 60, a racehorse breeder, and Lady Dufferin, the widow of Sheridan, the 5th marquess who died of an AIDS-related illness seven years ago, have no children.

The dispute stems partly from the complex arrangements left by Lady Dufferin's grandfather, the 1st Earl of Iveagh, who founded the family Guinness fortune. In 1927 he left an estimated £200 million, divided between his three children, including Ernest Guinness, Lady Duffer-



Lady Dufferin: "I am heartbroken"



Miss Citkovitz: one of two beneficiaries

in the 1930s. The court will be asked to rule on the validity of a deed executed by Lady Dufferin in 1991 appointing her remaining interests in the family trust fund in favour of her two granddaughters. The interests, which include the Owl House, an estate in Kent, and property in Knightsbridge are estimated to be worth £15 million.

Trustees of the Iveagh Will Trust, based in Jersey, began the legal action with reluctance after the family insisted that the legal principles should be settled by the court.

Edward Nugge, QC, for the trustees, told Mr Justice Knox: "Lady Caroline, Lady Perdita and Lady Dufferin, have asked for this summons because they want to establish the validity of the 1991 appointment. Lady Dufferin has asked the trustees to establish whether she retains her power of appointment."

Lady Dufferin inherited the fortune on the death of her father in 1949. Her interests immediately passed to her children, then aged 18, 15 and 11. Five years later she gave her children a half-share in her Canadian trusts (the Guinness family owns much of Vancouver) and used the rest to endow Clarendon, her husband's estate in Co Down, Northern Ireland.

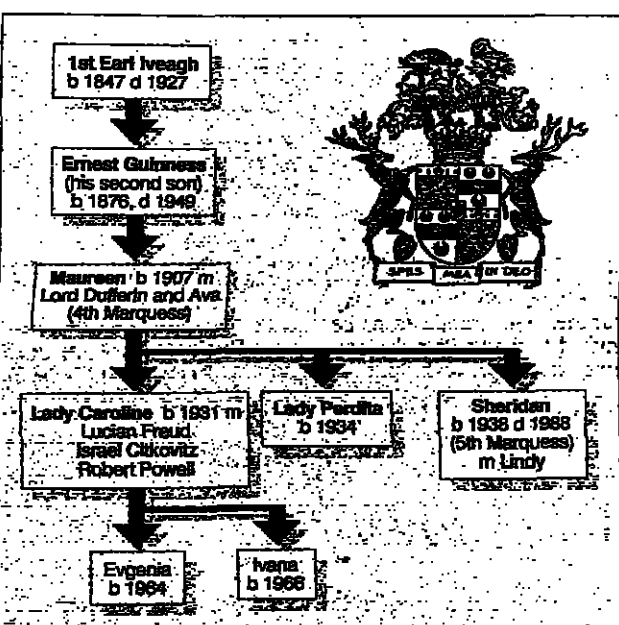
She said recently: "I am puzzled and heartbroken that my grandchildren's own mother and their two aunts are insisting on going to court. All three of them are sweet, charming people."

Lady Dufferin, who was brought up in Ireland, joined the London season in the 1920s with her sisters Aileen and Oonagh. Their fondness for practical jokes, their wealth and their beauty led to their being dubbed "the fabulous Guinness girls".

Before the first of her three marriages, Lady Dufferin became friends with the Oxford aesthetes — the Acton brothers, John Bejerman and Evelyn Waugh. When Oswald Mosley made a pass at her in Antibes, she gave him a black eye with her jewelled evening bag. Winston Churchill's son Randolph was another admirer.

After the death of her first husband in 1945, Lady Dufferin married Major Harry Buchanan but the marriage was dissolved in 1954. She later married Judge John Maude, QC, who died in 1986.

None of the family was at court yesterday. The hearing continues today.



## Heatstroke likely cause of environmentalist's death

By A Staff Reporter

ANDREW LEES, the environmentalist, probably died from severe heatstroke as he waded through the Madagascan jungle, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Lees, 45, the campaigns director for Friends of the Earth, collapsed and died as he trekked in the Petrify Forest on New Year's Eve. His body was found seven days later by a villager who led police and other members of a search party to the spot.

Mr Lees's fiancée, Dr Christine Orenge, 34, had been waiting at the edge of the forest. His friend Dr Jonathan Kaplan told the inquest in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk that

he had had to break the news to her.

Mr Lees's body was found at the edge of a clearing about a mile into the forest. He was clutching his camera bag. There were no marks to suggest that he had been attacked, robbed or hurt by a wild animal, Dr Kaplan said.

A post-mortem examination by a Home Office pathologist, Dr David Harrison, failed to establish the cause of death; the body was too badly decomposed. It had been thought Mr Lees died of a heart attack, but Dr Harrison said he had found no evidence of heart disease. "There are a number of possibilities but if I had to

choose, heatstroke would seem the most likely," he said.

Mr Lees, of Kentish Town, north London, had been on holiday in Madagascar for two weeks, making a film on the effect on the forest of a mining project. He had been due to return home and made a last foray into the forest.

Mr Lees told his driver he would return after an hour. When he failed to appear the driver began sounding his horn and shouting.

The deputy coroner, Nicholas Holroyd, said: "Conditions were extremely hot and Mr Lees had had an exhausting two weeks." An open verdict was recorded.



Arthur Hiller, president of the Oscars academy, and the actress Angela Bassett announcing the nominations for Best Male Actor

## British nominees surprise Oscar pundits

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

WITH eight leading nominations, half of them for the period drama *The Madness of King George*, the British caused most of the surprises when candidates for this year's Oscars were announced yesterday. The box office hit *Forrest Gump* dominated, however, with 13 nominations, one more than *Schindler's List* received last year.

A \$40,000 flying visit by Nigel Hawthorne to promote *The Madness of King George* in New York last

month appeared to have paid off: Hawthorne won a nomination as Best Actor for his role as the King, while Helen Mirren, his queen, was nominated for Best Supporting Actress and Alan Bennett for his screenplay.

Hugh Grant, star of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, was a notable omission from the Best Actor nominees, but the film made a rare entry for a comedy on the Best Film shortlist along with *Forrest Gump*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Quiz Show*, and *The Shawshank Redemption*. Richard Curtis, writer of *Four Weddings*, was

nominated for Best Original Screenplay. Tim Bevin, one of its producers, said: "It's a great day for British film when a movie that's not a frock flick or a gritty streets of London piece can make it throughout the world and get recognised like this."

Miranda Richardson and Rosemary Harris won nominations for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress respectively for their roles in *Tom and Viv*, the film about T.S. Eliot, while Paul Scofield returned to the Oscar contest with a Best Supporting Actor nomination for his role as a professor in *Quiz Show*. He

won the Best Actor Oscar for *A Man For All Seasons* 28 years ago.

Despite media predictions of a *Forrest Gump* backlash, there were acting nominations for Tom Hanks as Gump and Gary Sinise as his war veteran sidekick. Robert Zemeckis won a directing nomination for the film, which the bookmaker William Hill made 4-7 favourite to win the Best Film award.

Hanks, who won last year's Oscar for his role in *Philadelphia*, also faces competition from Paul Newman in *Nobody's Fool* and John Travolta in *Pulp Fiction*.

## Inheritance battle hastens Lucan's official demise

By Andrew Pierce

RELATIVES of Lord Lucan have succeeded in court in transferring part of the missing earl's estate to his family for the first time since he vanished in November 1974.

The announcement that almost £150,000 had been switched from the estate brings the official demise of Lord Lucan closer. The cash comes from trusts that guaranteed an income to the missing peer for the rest of his life. Many of the trusts had been set up by his father.

Legal moves are continuing by the family to have Lord Lucan declared officially dead. He disappeared after the murder of the family nanny Sandra Rivett, and the attempted murder of Lady Lucan, at the Lucan home in Belgravia.

Scotland Yard, which still receives many tips of alleged sightings of the peer each year, said last night that there were no plans to close the Lucan file. "There is no evidence to show that he is dead," a spokesman said.

Courts and Co, the trustees for the estate, have obtained permission from the Family Division of the High Court to wind-up Lord Lucan's financial affairs in England. When he disappeared he had huge gambling debts and had recently sold the family silver at Christie's to try to stay afloat.

The announcement said: "The Right Hon Richard John Bingham, the 7th Earl of Lucan, who died on or since 8th of November 1974, left settled estate valued at £146,976. The settled land grant has been issued to Courts & Co."

A spokesman for Smees and Ford, the probate researchers, said: "The settled land grant refers to property or income which Lord Lucan had used of for the rest of his life. It is very common in titled families."

Lord Lucan's son, Lord Bingham, 27, a merchant banker with Kleinwort Benson, refused yesterday to discuss the latest moves in the Lucan saga.

Courts can now administer the Lucan estate in England as if the 7th Earl were already dead. "We have applied to the High Court to have Lord Lucan officially sworn to be dead," a spokeswoman said.

But the court ruling will have no bearing on the Lucan estate in Castletbar, Co Mayo. The estate stretched to 62,000 acres in the middle of the last century and the family still has its own pew in the town's Presbyterian church. The last member of the clan to be seen in Castletbar was the missing earl some 30 years ago.

Several hundred people own properties on Lucan land and have withheld their ground rent since his disappearance. Estimates suggest the estate is owed £500,000 in unpaid rent. Dick Morris, a county councillor, said: "The Lucan son should get to grips with this. It causes resentment to the Irish people that they

cannot own the land on which their property is built. Ground rent is a remnant of the British Empire."

"We will not pay to absentee landlords, and they don't come much more absent than Lord Lucan. If he comes back to Castletbar, I will be the first in the queue to pay him."

The High Court process aims to secure an inheritance for the three Lucan children. It would not prevent the peer standing trial were he to be found. Since 1974 there have been countless sightings around the world.

Lord Lucan, who would now be almost 60 years old, was last reported to be in Botswana, a far cry from the gambling tables of the Clermont and other casinos where he lost £250,000. Taki Theodoropoulos, the shipping heir and newspaper columnist, who was a close friend, said: "Everyone knows he had no money at the end. I don't think there is much more money in the estate. I lent him money before he drowned himself at sea, which is why there is no body."



Lord Lucan, left, missing for 21 years and Lord Bingham, who wants him to be declared dead

## Police launch search for 'staring' intruder

POLICE are launching a nationwide hunt for a prowler who breaks into bedrooms and stares at women while they sleep (Lin Jenkins writes). In some cases the victims have been asleep with their partner, and the intruder calmly leaves the room if anyone wakes up.

Police believe that the same man might have been responsible for similar crimes in different parts of the country.

One victim may have had glue put in her mouth and nose by the intruder and has undergone psychiatric counselling.

Detective Sergeant Steve Reschwamm, of Newbury CID, leading the investigation, believes five incidents in the town might be linked with others a few years ago around Godalming, Surrey, and more recent incidents around Biggleswade in Bedfordshire.



## Secrets of the supermarket

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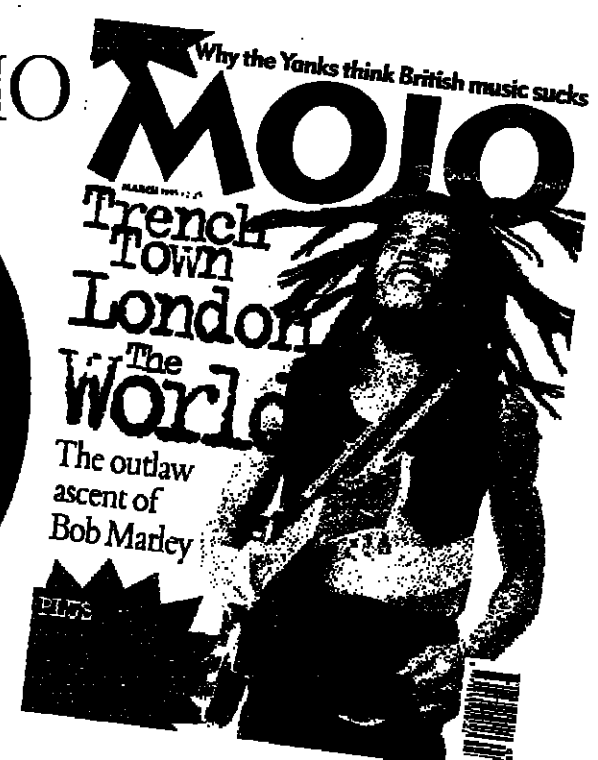
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Revised reports to cut jargon

# School inspectors to concentrate on improving three Rs

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOL inspectors will focus more closely on standards in the "three Rs" under proposals published yesterday that aim to cut paperwork and make reports parent-friendly.

The Office for Standards in Education urged a comprehensive overhaul of the new freelance inspection system only five months after it started monitoring all state schools.

The shake-up follows concern that teachers are wasting time and money preparing for inspections by writing numerous documents and policies or making superficial changes rather than concentrating on raising classroom performance. A shortage of primary inspectors also threatens the Government's commitment to

check each school every four years.

One primary spent more than £1,000 on indoor plants the week before inspectors were scheduled only for the visit to be cancelled. A secondary bought a vacuum cleaner to tidy the playground in an attempt to impress inspectors.

Chris Woodhead, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, told a conference in London that the proposals would make inspection reports incisive, jargon-free and relevant. He said: "We must get away from the blandness of the encyclopaedic description of every possible aspect of school life and achieve a sharp evaluation of what is actually happening in classrooms."

Mr Woodhead, who caused

a furore a fortnight ago by attacking progressive teaching methods, said inspectors would not prescribe how teachers taught. But he acknowledged criticism that some inspectors had promoted such methods for ideological reasons and disclosed that three head teachers had complained recently about a bias against traditional methods.

Mr Woodhead said there appeared to be an inverse relationship between the quantity of paperwork in a school and the quality of classroom performance. He said: "Primary schools burning the midnight oil trying to prepare a policy on everything that moves in advance of an inspection visit are wasting their time."

The proposed reforms follow a period of turmoil for the new inspection regime. While the system coped with the start of secondary school inspections in autumn 1993, the additional task of inspecting 19,000 English primary schools from September has proved too much. One quarter of primary inspections planned for last term were cancelled because of a shortage of inspectors.

In a step far removed from the spirit of a reform designed to dilute the influence of the "education establishment", Mr Woodhead signalled that teachers might be encouraged to become inspectors to combat shortages.

Peter Oldfield, vice-chairman of the National Association of Lay Inspectors, which represents the one non-professional required by law in every inspection team, welcomed the proposals. But he expressed concern that a minority of the 1,200 trained lay inspectors were dominating the market, while at least 600 people had not inspected a single school.

David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, said ministers were prepared to throw money away to hide their mistakes while schools struggled to pay teachers.

## Tory joins revolt on budget cuts

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE revolt by parents and governors against education cuts gathered pace yesterday as campaigners, including a leading Conservative councillor, criticised the Government in a series of protests.

The governing body of a school in the Forest of Dean resigned in protest at being required to make savings for the fifth year in succession. Brian Fowler, chairman of the governors at Lakers School in Coleford, Gloucestershire, said they had refused to cut £100,000 from the budget of the 800-pupil secondary school, which is grant maintained.

Jonathan Taylor, chairman of the education committee in Trafford, the flagship Conservative council in Greater Manchester, attacked the Cabinet's decision not to fund the teachers' pay award. In an open letter, he described Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, as "smug, complacent and

stupid" and said he had no understanding of the financial difficulties faced by schools.

Mr Taylor challenged the Chancellor to find savings to fund the 2.7 per cent pay increase from the council's education budget. He said: "I ask for a response in 72 hours otherwise we will know that you are what we see, a blather of words in the melting pot of hot water generated by the sweat you create doing nothing, knowing nothing and thinking you know everything."

More than 3,000 demonstrators, including teachers on strike, governors and children, lobbied Oxfordshire county councillors discussing cuts of £23.5 million that threaten the loss of 400 teaching jobs. A man aged 29 was arrested after Douglas Spencer, the Conservative education spokesman, had coffee thrown over him as he left County Hall at lunchtime. He was released without charge.



Schoolfriends of Ciaran Malone attend his funeral at Carragh yesterday

## Man charged with killing boy

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN appeared in court yesterday charged with the murder of a five-year-old boy as more than a thousand people turned out for the youngster's funeral.

Jerome Kavanagh, 21, was remanded in custody until tomorrow by Bray District Court, Co. Wicklow. The

court was told that when Mr Kavanagh was charged with the murder of Ciaran Malone he replied: "No". Mr Kavanagh, who lives close to the Malone family in Carragh, Co. Kildare, was driven off at speed in a police car after the hearing.

Hours earlier, more than 1,000 people lined the quiet country lanes near Ciaran's house in Carragh for his

funeral. His parents, David and Mary Malone, held each other as they walked behind Ciaran's coffin.

Earlier in the day Mr Kavanagh gave himself up after an extensive search by police and troops. He was arrested at a telephone kiosk near his home after making a 999 call. Ciaran was stabbed to death by a man wearing a balacava on Saturday night.

## Court names fine defaulters in press

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MAGISTRATES seeking to recover £1.5 million owed in fines and compensation to victims of crime are publishing the names and addresses of more than a hundred fine defaulters.

The initiative by Hounslow magistrates in west London is part of what they describe as a "rigorous programme of enforcement." The court says that nearly

£200,000 is due by way of compensation to victims of crime, "some of whom are in great need". More than 73,000 lists of defaulters will be distributed to households in the area this Friday as an insert in the local free newspaper.

Alan Baldwin, clerk to the court, said: "Where defaulters are failing to pay compensation orders, magistrates and staff are particularly concerned to take steps to ensure victims of crime receive prompt payment." The court "intends to

take a firm approach to ensure that compensation is paid."

The court has appealed to the public to help in the tracing of defaulters who have "disregarded the order of the court". Anyone who knows the whereabouts of a fine defaulter is being urged to telephone the court in confidence.

The court is also to open on three Saturdays "so that persons who are in genuine difficulty" can speak with staff or a magistrate to "review their position".

## Water chief refuses to disclose donations

By PHILIP BASSETT

THE chairman of North West Water, Sir Desmond Pitcher, clashed with Parliament yesterday when he refused to provide MPs with information on its charitable donations.

The Commons Select Committee on Employment is likely to use its powers to require him to provide the information. He told the committee that he did not think details of the company's charitable donations, which last year totalled £60,000, were relevant to its inquiry into executives' pay. Greville Janner, the committee's chairman, said he could see no reason why Sir Desmond had refused the information, and asked him to reconsider.

Sir Desmond told reporters outside the committee that the donations were all for environmental work in the North West.

Sir Desmond told the MPs that he regarded his own salary as "equitable". He said that his taking up the post had entailed a 60 per cent drop in salary and that he was not concerned with "higher and higher income" but with the type of work he did.

He angered MPs when he disputed that there was genuine public concern about the pay levels of directors of privatised companies and suggested that the concern had been built up by those with an interest in doing so.

He denied that industry itself was worried about the issue, and that the establishment of a Confederation of British Industry committee to look at pay, under Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks and Spencer, reflected concern.

## Mother at Rikki's funeral

Six-year-old Rikki Neave, who was found strangled in a copse near his home in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, in November, was cremated at King's Lynn yesterday. Among the 40 mourners was his mother Ruth, 26, who is due in court this month charged with cruelty to Rikki. Dressed in black and wearing dark glasses, she sat apart from the rest of the congregation and sobbed throughout the service.

## Hume honoured

Jacques Delors, former President of the European Commission, and John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, are to receive honorary degrees from Queen's University, Belfast.

## MP in drive ban

Iain Duncan-Smith, Tory MP for Chingford, Essex, was banned from driving for a week and fined £210 for speeding while on his way to the annual party conference at Bournemouth.

## Computer case

Christopher Pile, 26, of Plymouth, was remanded on bail by Plymouth magistrates charged under the Computer Misuses Act with introducing viruses into computers to facilitate crime.

## Hotel raided

Three robbers, one armed with a handgun, escaped with £300 early yesterday morning after threatening staff at the Savoy Court Hotel, central London. No shots were fired.

## Dummy run

Seamus Murtagh, 36, escaped from the jail at Lancaster Castle after placing a dummy in his bed and using knotted sheets to get down the battlements. Police said he should not be approached.

## Road trees felled

Workers escorted by police and security guards surprised protesters yesterday by felling trees for the new M71 in Glasgow at the opposite end of the route from most demonstrators.

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'Woman of good character' drank bottle of wine before breaching Scotland Yard security

## Howard's drunken aide took Special Branch car

By BILL FROST

A PERSONAL assistant to the Home Secretary took an unmarked Special Branch car from Scotland Yard while over the drink-drive limit and scuffed with a police officer after trying to direct traffic on one of London's busiest roads.

Janine Barnes caused £1,600 of damage to vehicles used by two of the Metropolitan force's most senior operational officers: Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the fraud squad, and Commander David Tucker of the anti-terrorist branch.

The escape by Barnes, 26, who was responsible for Michael Howard's daily diary, followed a lunchtime drinking session in a wine bar last November.

At Camberwell Magistrates' Court yesterday, Barnes admitted aggravated vehicle taking, having excess alcohol in her blood and driving without insurance.

Tim Clayton, for the prosecution, said that Barnes, of Welling, Kent, was "a woman of good character". She went out for a lunchtime drink on



Howard Barnes looked after his diary

November 25, and later told police she had consumed a bottle of wine.

She then went for a walk and "found herself outside New Scotland Yard where she followed a pedal cyclist through a security barrier". Mr Clayton said that, unchallenged, Barnes went down to the high-security underground car park. She sat behind the wheel of a Ford Mondeo, which had its keys in

the ignition in accordance with Yard procedure.

Barnes later told police that she only intended sitting inside the vehicle. Two witnesses saw her "reverse out and strike a Vauxhall Cavalier parked in bay 43, and this vehicle collided into a second Cavalier parked in bay 48". Mr Clayton told the court.

They described Barnes as "looking tense, gripping the steering wheel tightly and with red, puffy eyes, as if she had been crying". Before leaving she hit the two vehicles.

She eventually abandoned the car a few miles away in Clapham High Street, where it was later found with a flat tyre. Barnes then hitched a lift to Brixton police station where she reported the loss of her handbag.

She was seen shouting at a police vehicle as it entered the station car park. Moments later Barnes was restrained after she ran into the middle of the A23 at the front of the station and tried to stop the traffic.

"Miss Barnes was then taken back inside Brixton police station where she told officers

what had happened," Mr Clayton said. "They were sceptical. She started shouting and there was a scuffle. She was unable to take a breath test and was held overnight." The next day she was found to have 122mg of alcohol to 100ml of blood. The legal limit is 80mg of alcohol.

Richard Lewis, for the defence, said: "The circumstances of the offences are unusual and what is even more unusual is that a lady of good character committed these offences."

Barnes was bailed unconditionally until March 14 for reports. She left the court refusing to comment.

A spokesman for the Home Office last night refused to say whether Barnes, who was suspended after the incident, would return to Mr Howard's private office. "In the light of what has happened, we will now be considering her future in the department," he said.

A police inquiry is continuing into the case with which Barnes was able to take a Special Branch vehicle from Scotland Yard's high-security car park.



Janine Barnes is ushered away from court after admitting the offences

## Smuggled lover's happy landing

By JOHN SHAW

A BUSINESSMAN who smuggled his Russian girlfriend into the country through a rural airfield landed himself and his pilot in court. But the adventure had a happy ending and Richard Harper is now married to the woman.

Magistrates at Thetford, Norfolk, were told that Harper, of Swanton Morley, Norfolk, recruited his friend, David Clarke, 36, a pilot, to fly Ellana, a translator, from Poland to Swanton Morley airfield.

Clarke, who admitted his part in the episode last July, was fined £1,000 for assisting an illegal entry into Britain and £1,000 for carrying passengers without a licence.

Immigration officers discovered the 30-year-old woman and her son Oleg did not have visas and allowed them to stay only a fortnight. Mr Harper then set about getting the correct paperwork and last September the couple married.

Harper was fined £500 by magistrates last November for his part in bringing his girlfriend into the country illegally.

## Rosemary West sent for trial on 14 counts

By RICHARD DUCÉ

ROSEMARY WEST is to stand trial accused of ten murders and four sex offences, a senior magistrate decided yesterday. Peter Badge, sitting at Dursley Magistrates' Court in Gloucestershire, ruled that there was a case for Mrs West to answer on the charges of murder and also found that the prosecution had produced evidence for four new charges — two of rape and two of indecent assault.

The charges relate to two women whom Mrs West is alleged to have attacked with her husband Frederick, who committed suicide in Winson Green Prison, Birmingham, on New Year's Day.

At the end of the seven-day committal hearing, Leo Goatley, Mrs West's solicitor, said he would be seeking a High Court judicial review to overturn Mr Badge's committal decision. Mr Goatley said the case would be brought on the ground of abuse of process, claiming that the length of time since the offences were alleged to have been committed and the case being brought to court had been too long. He also said that intensive media coverage prevented Mrs West from receiving a fair trial.

Describing the evidence against Mrs West as "flimsy", Mr Goatley said: "These matters will be pursued at the outset of any trial. The kind of circumstantial evidence being relied upon is of no value at all. Mrs West maintains her innocence. We will be putting forward a strong defence." He said Mrs West's mood was "pretty reasonable" after the committal.

## Workmen plagued by giant river bugs

By NIGEL HAWKES

WORKERS on an industrial estate in southeast London watched aghast as thousands of giant bugs emerged from the Thames, scaled the river wall and crawled towards them.

The 1.5m-long creatures covered the ground in such numbers that people fleeing from their advance had no option but to tread on them. Environmental health officers from Greenwich called to the estate in Woolwich were at first unable to identify the species.

They were believed to be huge cockroaches but were later identified by Dr Jim Brock, an entomologist from the Horniman Museum, in South London, as *Ligeia oceanica*, a crustacean and a larger cousin of the common wood louse.

Dr Brock said: "They thrive in salt water conditions and live along the British coast. They are very elusive and people hardly ever come into contact with them. When they do they are often frightened out of their skins because they are so big. They really do look like something out of a horror movie."

Environmental health officers believe the creatures were swept up river by high tides and went ashore at two points between Woolwich Ferry and the Thames Barrier. "There were literally thousands of them," a spokesman said. "It was quite frightening for people working on the estate who came into contact with them." The crustaceans have now either died or disappeared.



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# Highland blizzards thwart rescuers and claim two climbers

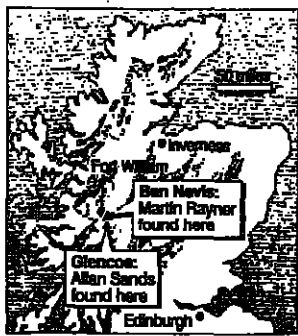
By Gillian Bowditch  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

TREACHEROUS weather on Ben Nevis and Glencoe has claimed two more climbers in spite of the efforts of mountain rescuers who battled in darkness, blizzards and sub-zero temperatures to find them.

Martin Rayner, 22, a physics student from Hereford and Worcester, was found shortly before 10pm on Monday on Orion's Face on Ben Nevis. He had serious head injuries.

An RAF helicopter was unable to fly him off the mountain because of the weather and he was brought down by foot. By the time he reached hospital in Fort William, Mr Rayner had died.

The body of Allan Sands, 25, from Glasgow, was found yesterday on Glencoe. Rescuers had covered hundreds of square miles over four days in their search for him. Mr Sands, who was 6ft 6in tall, had been climbing alone and had not left details of his route. Police had received a call at



1.30am yesterday from another climber who remembered meeting Mr Sands.

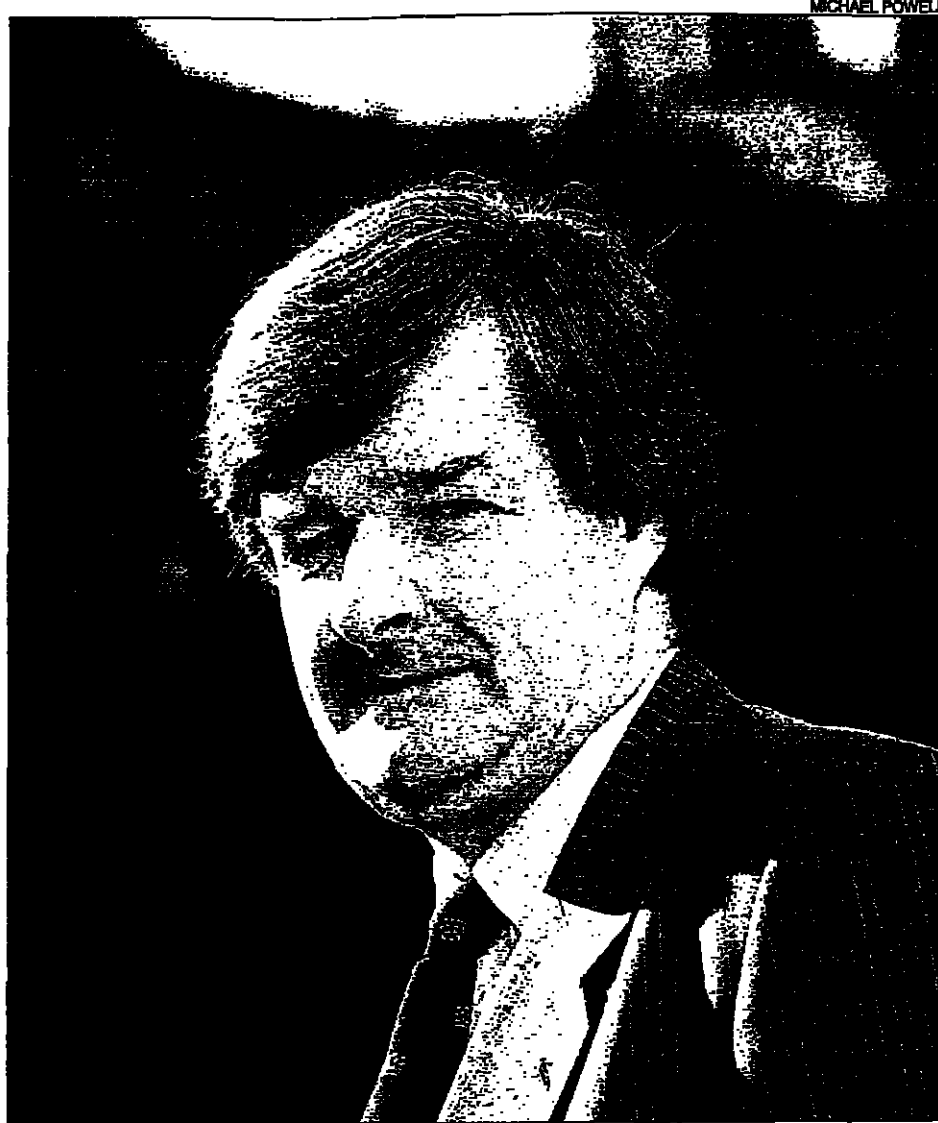
The Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team continued to search for Mr Rayner after colleagues from RAF Leuchars and RAF Kinloss were ordered off the mountain as darkness fell on Monday. Rescuers who had been on the hill from first light were exhausted by the end of the mission. Earlier on Monday, Mr Rayner's climbing companion, Sacha Backes, from Luxembourg, was airlifted off Ben Nevis. He had frostbite and severe hypothermia. Mr

Backes, whose cries for help were heard by other mountaineers, and Mr Rayner had fallen while attempting a 1,500 ft climb on Orion's Face. When the rescuers found Mr Rayner, he was still attached to his rope.

Mr Backes and Mr Rayner, of Evesham, were both first-year physics post-graduates at Southampton University. Their tutor, Professor Ken Barnes, said yesterday: "They had both finished the same first semester exams and planned this expedition as a way of letting off steam. I had tea with them before they left on Friday and warned them it would be damned silly to go."

"But there was no stopping them. They could not have been better prepared and Martin was noted as being an extremely careful climber."

Terry Confield, leader of the Lochaber team, who spent nearly 20 hours on Ben Nevis on Monday, yesterday defended winter climbers. They loved the mountains and had a right to be on them, he said.



Dr Richard Nicholson: "I still think that it was the most humane thing to do"

## Doctor helped two handicapped babies to die

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A DOCTOR admitted yesterday that he hastened the deaths of two severely handicapped babies after their parents had agreed that they should be allowed to die.

Dr Richard Nicholson, a writer on medical ethics, said he increased the amount of painkilling drugs over a two-day period and the babies, who were suffering from spina bifida and hydrocephalus (water on the brain), eventually died. Although the incident happened 20 years ago, Dr Nicholson said infant euthanasia was still performed in secret in Britain because it was illegal. He said he knew paediatricians who felt moved to carry it out.

Dr Nicholson founded the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, which he owns and edits, ten years ago and is no longer in medical practice. He has a reputation for his outspoken views on ethical issues. He makes his admission on ITV's current affairs programme *3D*, to be broadcast tomorrow at 7.30pm. However, he said he would not

behave in the same way again. At a press conference yesterday called by Yorkshire Television, makers of the programme, Dr Nicholson said both the babies involved were inoperable and in pain.

The consultants had agreed with the parents that they should not be treated but kept comfortable with painkilling drugs and allowed to die. However, both babies lingered for weeks and their parents became very distressed. After discussing the problem with the ward sister, Dr Nicholson increased the doses of their drugs. "I have no way of knowing whether the drugs killed those babies or whether they died of the diseases we were expecting them to die of. I still think that was the most humane thing to do, though I thought then that what I was doing was against the law."

The British Medical Association said it knew that infant euthanasia took place but warned that doctors who carried it out were liable to criminal charges.

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### MORTGAGES

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Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate	8.35%	8.7%
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†APR is typical of loans for 25 years.

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£ 2,500+	1.50	1.13
£ 1,000+	1.20	0.90
Below £1,000	1.00	0.75

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£5,000+	0.50	0.38
£1,000+	0.30	0.23
Below £1,000	0.20	0.15

STUDENT ACCOUNT	1.00	0.75
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\*\*The rates of interest applicable to Gold Service Accounts are also applicable to Asset Management Service Current Accounts.

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\*\*\*\*Typical APR based on a limit of £2,500 including annual fee.

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	GROSS %	NET %	GROSS %	NET %
£100,000+	6.10	4.58	5.94	4.46
£ 50,000+	5.80	4.35	5.65	4.24
£ 25,000+	5.50	4.13	5.37	4.03
£ 10,000+	5.25	3.94	5.13	3.85
Below £10,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38

30 DAY SAVINGS	ANNUAL OPTION		MONTHLY OPTION	
	GROSS %	NET %	GROSS %	NET %
£25,000+	4.25	3.19	4.17	3.13
£10,000+	4.15	3.11	4.07	3.05
£ 5,000+	4.05	3.04	3.98	2.99
Below £5,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38

INSTANT SAVINGS ACCOUNT	ANNUAL OPTION		MONTHLY OPTION	
	GROSS %	NET %	GROSS %	NET %
£25,000+	4.10	3.08	4.02	3.02
£10,000+	3.90	2.93	3.83	2.87
£ 5,000+	3.70	2.78	3.64	2.73
£ 500+	3.50	2.63	3.45	2.59
Below £500	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.75

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	GROSS %	NET %	GROSS %	NET %
£1+	0.25	0.19	0.25	0.19

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## Ministers offer deal to save GP night visits

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH ministers have made concessions to the British Medical Association over payments to GPs in the hope of averting a boycott of night visits.

GPs' leaders were to meet tomorrow to ballot the profession on an end to all home visits between 10pm and 8am in protest over a decision to revamp the system of payments to family doctors. GPs were furious at the plan to reduce the night visit fee from £47.85 to £9 plus a lump sum of £2,000 a year per doctor.

However, proposals tabled this week by Gerry Malone, the Health Minister, appear to have headed off the immediate threat of a clash. Mr Malone has indicated that the Department of Health is prepared to release an extra £200 per GP into the pool of money used to pay night visit fees and to renegotiate the original package. He has also offered doctors an extra £15 million to help to cover the overheads of practices which club together to do night visits.

Ministers are also prepared to run a national newspaper

campaign aimed at persuading the public not to make unreasonable demands on their local surgeries and not to call out their doctors on trivial matters.

Tomorrow's meeting of the General Medical Services Committee of the BMA is expected to approve talks between the two sides on the details of the new package. The committee disputes claims that the £200 a head amounts to new money because it was previously being paid to dispensing doctors. However, its leaders have said that they are prepared to put the threat of sanctions on hold, pending fresh talks.

Mr Malone said: "We are prepared to be flexible on what was put forward in relation to the £9 night visit fee and the £2,000 a year. We want to go back to the table and discuss all this again, but I will not go back into the fee structure to destroy the impetus we have towards co-operative arrangements."

Mr Malone said he wanted to be helpful and that he still hoped the Health Department and the GPs' committee could submit joint evidence to the doctors' and dentists' review body to enable it to produce a supplementary report shortly.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the GPs' committee, said he welcomed the offer to restart negotiations but that he did not accept that keeping a new award within the review body's overall recommended rise of 3 per cent for all GPs was adequate.

"This does not solve the problem, but it obviously shows some movement towards us," he said.



Malone: tabled fresh proposals

## Celebrities honour Red Cross

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MORE than 40 celebrities, including Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Nigel Havers, Rula Lenska and Baroness Williams of Crosby, have helped to write a book marking the 125th birthday of the British Red Cross.

*I Owe My Life* charts its history from its first work in France in 1870 to involvement in Rwanda. The writers describe the charity's activities from sending food parcels to prisoners of war to assisting at such tragedies as the Lockerbie air disaster.

Lord Archer said at the book's launch in London yesterday that, contrary to popular perception, the Red Cross depended on voluntary donations.

The writer Claire Rayner said: "My first memories of the Red Cross are as an evacuee in Devonshire when I was just eight years old, and I had a label round my neck and a gas mask, and felt miserable as hell. Then out of the blue a Red Cross helper in an apron appeared and gave me a bar of chocolate."

Other contributors include Lady Soames, Viscountess Tansy and Simon Weston.

## Heads of utilities 'on £5,000 a week'

By PHILIP BASSETT

LABOUR claimed yesterday that the bosses of privatised utility companies such as water and electricity firms were now earning an average of £5,000 a week.

The figure came as the Commons' all-party Employment Select Committee called in more of the leaders of former nationalised industries to give evidence, including the chairman of British Gas.

Labour leaders released a survey of the top-paid directors in privatised utilities, usually the chairman or chief executive, and showed that the average weekly wage in 1994, including pension provision, for leaders of water, telecommunications, electricity and power companies was £4,937 - or an "astounding" £130 an hour. The top earner was Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, listed by Labour at £14,558 a week for a 70-hour week.

Labour contrasted these figures with the 10 worst-paid jobs, which it said were topped for women by waitresses on £137 a week and hairdressers on £141, and for men by kitchen porters on £161 and catering assistants on £164.

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Employment Secretary, said the figures "show just how obscene the divide between the top few and the rest of society has become under the Tories." "Whilst top executives enjoy telephone-number salaries, thousands of families in Britain are struggling just to make ends meet."

The Department of Employment says that company executives' salary levels are matters for the companies and their shareholders.

Charity donations, page 4

## Doc into for

CHILDREN who are falling ill with syndrome that slows growth, doctors at Southampton University have "squashed" drinking in a group of children derived a third of the recommended daily calories from fizzy drinks, squash and juice.

The children, aged to seven, had poor were irritable and frequent bouts of diarrhoea. The researchers found they were often substituting for milk unpleasant-tasting drinks including blenders in tube is inserted down throat to take a sample of gut lining, to determine

## Butter health

By NIGEL

THE Advertising Standards Authority has criticised the Butter Council for misleading health claims.

Complaints about advertising in newspapers and television have been made since the authority. The authority would have to confuse the public by healthy eating the message. The Butter Council has been asked to modify its claims.

At the same time, the authority rejected a complaint from the against Van der Buren, makers of Flora margarine.

The Butter Council's advertisement was based on evidence that trans fatty acids in margarine do not cause heart disease. The Butter Council has ridiculed claims made by some producers that products were low in

## Land minis

By JOHN YOUNG

A GOVERNMENT of ment for rural affairs oversee the future of British countryside and million people who live was called for yesterday the Country Landowners Association.

Besides absorbing responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the department will take control of for wildlife, rural planning, defence, water supply, scape conservation, environmental protection, pollution control and extraction of

A policy document been submitted to John H. mer, the Environment Secretary, and William W. grave, the Agriculture Secretary, in advance of Government's White Paper on the countryside, due published in the autumn. Hugh Durberry, the association president, said yesterday: "Although agriculture is undoubtedly remaining predominant land use, there is a need for a move towards broader-based rural policy. Farmers were responsible only for food production and the stewardship of nation's land, and would main the focus of all countryside policy. But jobs on farming were also needed."

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## Squash-drinking syndrome

## Doctors blame high intake of fruit juice for child sickness

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN who consume high quantities of fruit drinks are falling ill with a new syndrome that slows their growth, doctors say today. Researchers at Southampton University have identified "squash drinking syndrome" in a group of children who derived a third of their recommended daily calories from fizzy drinks, squash and fruit juice.

The children, aged from two to seven, had poor appetites, were irritable and suffered frequent bouts of diarrhoea. The researchers found that they were often subjected to unpleasant invasive tests, including biopsies in which a tube is inserted down the throat to take a sample of the gut lining, to determine the

cause of the problem. Parents reported frequent disputes at meal-times when their children refused to eat. Worry about their failure to gain weight led parents to seek medical help.

Writing in *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, Jonathan Hourihane, a clinical research fellow, and Chris Rolles, a consultant paediatrician, say the most common drink consumed by the children was blackcurrant squash. An average beaker contains six to nine teaspoons of sugar and drinking it in excessive amounts would disrupt the normal development of hunger between meals, they say.

Dr Hourihane said the drinks contained "empty calories" with no nutritional bene-

fit. "Some children are getting so many calories from the drinks that they don't eat properly and don't get enough fat and protein to grow. Meals can be an area of conflict, but breakfast is the exception because the children have gone all night without drink."

Dr Hourihane said eight children with the syndrome had been seen in the paediatric clinic at Southampton General Hospital at the time the research was done in 1993-94 and a further 20 had been identified since. "These are just the ones that come to medical attention but there must be many more," he said.

Some children were subjected to invasive tests to check whether they were suffering from malabsorption through the gut caused by coeliac disease or cystic fibrosis. However, all had improved significantly when their fruit drinks were reduced and replaced with milk and water.

A survey of 100 children in Southampton carried out by the authors found 70 per cent of the pre-school and half of the infant school children never drank plain water, mainly drinking squash and fruit juice instead. One in seven of the pre-school group obtained half their recommended daily energy intake from the drinks. At least half a child's daily energy intake should come from carbohydrate, mostly in the form of starch such as bread and potatoes.

The survey revealed that almost nine out of ten of the mothers questioned were happy with their child's drinking habits. The authors say that parents may be conditioning their children to the taste of sweet drinks from an early age, affecting their later health. "We feel our work reflects a cultural change in drinking habits driven by commercial pressures on families to consume specific products rather than drinks of nutritional benefit," they say.

Soft drink sales in Britain rose almost 50 per cent between 1981 and 1991 to 6,515 million litres, most of it drunk by children. Robert Hayward, director-general of the British Soft Drinks Association, said: "Any food or drink should be consumed in moderation."

## Butter ad spread health confusion

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Advertising Standards Authority has criticised the Butter Council for making misleading health claims.

Complaints about an advertisement in newspapers last October have been upheld by the authority. The advertisement would have tended to confuse the public about healthy eating, the authority says. The Butter Council has been asked to modify it.

At the same time, the authority rejected a counter-claim from the council against Van den Bergh Foods, makers of Flora margarine.

The Butter Council advertisement was based on evidence that trans fatty acids in margarines (the result of chemical processes to thicken vegetable oils) might have the same effects in a diet as the saturated fats in butter. The advertising authority says that the Butter Council should have made clear that butter also contains small amounts of trans fatty acids in addition to saturated fats.

The Butter Council had also ridiculed claims made by margarine producers that their products were low in chole-

sterol, saying there was little evidence that cholesterol in food translated into cholesterol in the body. The authority says that consumers "may infer from the claim that eating butter bore little relation to raising cholesterol levels" and asked the Butter Council to change it.

The National Food Alliance, one of the complainants, said yesterday that the authority had taken too long to issue its ruling, which came "too late to clear up that confusion". Dr Mike Rayner said: "The ASA's ruling highlights the need for a thorough review of the codes of practice, for pre-vetting of adverts making health claims about foods, for speeding the complaints procedure and for effective sanctions, including fines."

The Butter Council did win one consolation victory. Complaints about an advertisement with the heading "Yum-Yum" and showing the chemical processes by which margarine is made were dismissed by the ASA. The presentation was "neither misleading nor inaccurate", the authority ruled.

## Landowners appeal for ministry of rural affairs

By JOHN YOUNG

A GOVERNMENT department for rural affairs, to oversee the future of the British countryside and the 13 million people who live there, was called for yesterday by the Country Landowners Association.

Besides absorbing the responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the department would take control of forestry, wildlife, water supply, landscape conservation, environmental protection, pollution control and extraction of minerals.

A policy document has been submitted to John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, and William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, in advance of the Government's White Paper on the countryside, due to be published in the autumn.

Hugh Duberly, the association's president, said yesterday: "Although agriculture will undoubtedly remain the predominant land use, there is a need for a move towards a broader-based rural policy." Farmers were responsible not only for food production but also the stewardship of the nation's land, and would remain the focus of all countryside policy. But jobs outside farming were also needed.



Duberly: seeking to broaden rural economy

While almost a quarter of the population lived in rural areas, they suffered from a lack of facilities. Fewer than 10 per cent of rural parishes had a bank, nursery or day-care centre; nearly three quarters had no daily bus service and over a third had no shop.

Mr Duberly added: "An estimated 37,000 rural households are in housing need and 16,000 are homeless, as a result of rising prices, lack of public sector funds, discrimination against renting, and restrictive planning policies."

The report claims that the rural economy is hampered by over-regulation and the designation of large areas of countryside for specific pur-

poses. The Government and the European Union must recognise that areas of landscape or wildlife value cannot be sustained merely by drawing lines on maps. The association fears that such maps will be misused through the planning system to constrain rural enterprise and economic development.

The report also claims that too many buildings are listed as of historic interest. It says that the key to protecting heritage buildings and sites is in finding economic uses for them which will yield funds for maintenance.

The report calls for more incentives for environmental management to protect and enhance wildlife habitats, landscapes and historical features. In return for receiving "stewardship" incentives, farmers must reduce their reliance on subsidies.

Access to the countryside is better ensured by voluntary agreements with landowners than by any statutory "right to roam", the report says. There must be proper recognition of the role of country sports in both the countryside economy and environmental management, and individual choice must be protected.

□ *Towards a Rural Policy: a Vision for the 21st Century* (Country Landowners Association, 16 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PQ, £5)

## Lorry widow wins review

THE widow of one of six people killed when a lorry with faulty brakes crashed in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, in September 1993 has won the first round of her battle to prosecute the vehicle's owners. Brenda Waterworth, of Bradford, was granted a judicial review of a decision not to prosecute Fawston Transport for corporate manslaughter. Derek Waterworth was the driver.



Colin Ellis runs the largest British herd of bison, with 55 animals, at his Wiltshire farm. He began the herd with surplus zoo stock

## Healthy buffalo roams into the British diet

By ROBIN YOUNG

BUFFALO, the staple diet of American Indians and prairie dogs, has arrived on British supermarket shelves as a lean, healthy meat of the future.

Tesco launched buffalo steaks and burgers from a ranch in Calgary, west Canada, in 160 of its stores yesterday. If the launch succeeds, other major retailers are sure to follow.

Buffalo is slightly stronger and sweeter tasting than beef, but can be cooked in all the same ways. At £5.99 for a 10oz pack of two steaks until March 5 (£6.99 thereafter) and £2.59 for two quarter-pound burgers (going up to £2.99) the meat is not much more expensive than prime

beef. "Our in-house tests show that it should go well with customers," a Tesco spokeswoman said.

The buffalo, or, as it should more properly be called, bison, once roamed the great plains of America in vast numbers, perhaps 60 million at its peak. By the end of the last century they had been hunted to near extinction but numbers have since recovered.

The meat has less cholesterol than fish, let alone beef or chicken, and is approved of by the National Heart Association and fitness enthusiasts such as Jane Fonda.

Buffalo has to be cooked more carefully and at lower temperatures than beef. Buf-



Buffalo Bill: scourge of the plains herds

falo meat exposed to gas mark 7, a Canadian brochure admits, will be "nearly as palatable as roofing shingles". The best meat is tender-

loin, but there are only nine to 12 pounds of tenderloin on a typical carcass.

There are estimated already to be more than 150,000 bison on ranches in America and numbers could exceed a million by the end of the century. Forty ranches with average herds of 200 head apiece are operating in France and Belgium.

There are over 200 bison in Britain, where the animals were introduced in the 1870s by a game-hunting cowboy called Buffalo Jones. The largest British herd, of 55 animals, is run by Colin Ellis at a farm in West Knoyle, Wiltshire. He started his herd with animals from Chester Zoo. Another ten members of the British Bison Association, of which Mr

Ellis is secretary, have animals.

Chefs in Britain who have tried buffalo differ about how to handle it. Antony Worrall Thompson, who test-cooked the meat yesterday, served it with a compote of honey, apples and onions. "It is a little stronger than beef and a bit tougher," he said. "The burgers could do with some sort of barbecue sauce to zap them up a bit."

Bob Plumb, a Canadian rancher, recommends mouseline of bison or bison Wellington. At the Buffalo Bill museum in Cody, Wyoming, the restaurant sells snacks of dried bison jerky. Tesco is merely recommending that buyers grill or fry their steaks or burgers for 10 to 12 minutes.

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Price war 'would be illogical'

# Le Shuttle summer fare undercuts ferry by £10

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS taking their cars to France through the Channel Tunnel this summer will save £10 compared with the cost of using the cross-Channel ferry.

Eurotunnel's long awaited summer fares, launched yesterday, reveal a marginal difference between its price for a car and four passengers and those of its main competitors, P&O European Ferries and Stena Sealink. For cars with just one or two passengers, it will be cheaper to take the ferry from Dover, although, motorway-to-motorway, Le Shuttle takes only one hour, half as long as by sea. Ferry

operators are also offering discounts of up to 20 per cent on bookings before the end of March. From April 1 a standard return ticket for Eurotunnel's Le Shuttle service will cost between £214 and £306, according to time and date of travel. That compares with a range of £220 to £320 for the ferry and £239 to £339 for Hoverspeed. Five-day returns on Le Shuttle will cost between £115 and £169.

The announcement paves the way for the first high season clash between Eurotunnel and the ferry operators since Channel Tunnel passenger services started last year. However, Eurotunnel executives dismissed the threat of a price war being launched by

the ferry companies to meet the challenge of the new competition from passenger services through the tunnel. "We just do not see what kind of business logic would lead them to carry out a price war," said Georges-Christian Chazot, chief executive of Eurotunnel. "The tunnel will not just disappear, it cannot disappear. They just have to be sensible about it."

More than a million people have already used Channel Tunnel rail services and the number of trains operating between the Continent and England is being rapidly stepped up. From April Eurotunnel will operate a "turn up and go" service, with trains running at a rate of four

an hour by August. Until the end of April reservations will have to be made in advance.

Chris Laming, public relations manager at Stena Sealink, said bookings were on course to match last year's record, despite the competition.

"It remains to be seen how many members of the public want to go down a totally boring and utilitarian hole in the ground," he said. "A return air ticket to the Continent varies widely depending on class, time of year and departure airport, according to Thomas Cook. A super Apex return from Heathrow to Paris at the height of the season, costs £79 compared with £184 from Manchester.

**SUMMER FARES ACROSS THE CHANNEL**

All ferry and Sealink fares are subject to a 10% winter booking discount until the end of March. Eurotunnel's Le Shuttle fares are subject to a 10% winter booking discount until the end of March.

Service	Fare (per car + 4 passengers)	Time
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LE SHUTTLE	£214 (Le Shuttle) £239 (P&O) £239 (Stena)	1 hour
SEALINK	£184 (Le Shuttle) £239 (P&O) £239 (Stena)	1 hour 20 mins
FERRIES	£200 (Le Shuttle) £239 (P&O) £239 (Stena)	1 hour 50 mins

## Head suspended 'for taping boy's mouth'

A HEAD teacher has been suspended after allegedly sealing a pupil's mouth with sticking tape to stop him talking in class. Police are investigating the incident.

Alex Christie, the head at Carmuir Primary School, Camelon, Central Scotland, is alleged to have made the 10-year-old boy stand in front of the class for ten minutes with his mouth taped. Central

Regional Council's education department met yesterday and decided to conduct its own investigation into the incident, which took place last week. Mr Christie was told of the council's decision by letter.

Police from Central Scotland Child Protection Unit at Bannockburn are conducting an inquiry after receiving a complaint.

## Attacker freed after man is left disabled

AN ASSAILANT whose victim was left paralysed walked free from court yesterday.

Stephen Amer, 38, of Brighton, is still in hospital nine months after the street attack and might have to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

Robert Newton, also of Brighton, was ordered to do 180 hours' community service by Lewes Crown Court after admitting a charge of actual

bodily harm. Newton, 48, had originally been accused of causing grievous bodily harm.

After the case, Mr Amer's mother Margaret said: "This sentence shows the vast difference between justice and law."

Recorder Peter Birt, QC, was told how Mr Amer, a rail guard, hit his head on the road while reeling from a punch by Newton, with whom there had been a long-running dispute.



Tumim: "Little change since 1989 inspection"

## Inspector says jail is affront to human dignity

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of prisoners at Armley jail, Leeds, live in overcrowded conditions that are "an affront to human dignity", Judge Stephen Tumim says in a report today.

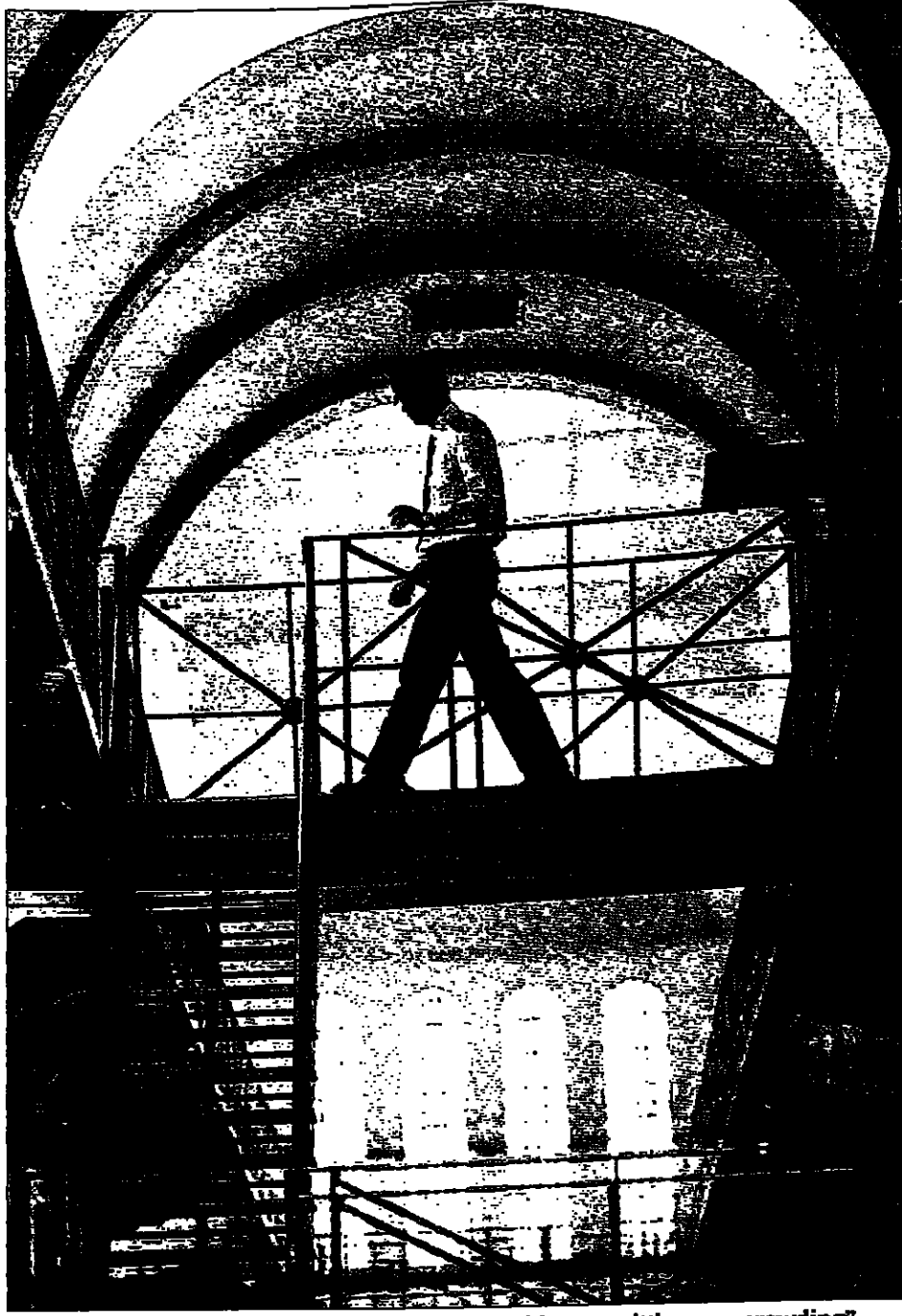
The Chief Inspector of Prisons condemns working conditions in some areas of the jail as appalling, particularly a segregation unit infested with vermin and lacking ventilation and natural light. Large areas of the premises were dirty and most remand prisoners spent 22 hours a day locked in their cells.

He says that perimeter security at the jail, which holds 1,104 inmates, was barely acceptable. Six closed-circuit television cameras were placed haphazardly and did not provide full monitoring of the perimeter.

Tony Fitzpatrick, the governor, did not have an office within the perimeter fence. He faced unremitting and serious overcrowding and a prison culture resistant to improving the regime.

The judge criticises the air of resigned institutionalisation among staff and prisoners. He says determined action by managers was needed to end the jail's tradition as a "human warehouse where prisoners and staff have to tolerate unsatisfactory conditions."

He says: "It was depressing that, in spite of improvements to some buildings, little had changed in conditions for prisoners since the last inspection in 1989."



Armley jail, Leeds: a "human warehouse with unremitting overcrowding"

oners since the last inspection in 1989.

The report blames overcrowding for many difficulties at the jail, built in 1847 and undergoing a £29 million redevelopment. "Leeds staff were trapped in a warehouse with apparently no chance to put things right because of unremitting overcrowding and insufficient activity."

Judge Tumim adds: "Prisoners were not in our judgment cowed through fear of staff: rather they were intimidated by conditions which were in many respects an affront to human dignity."

The Chief Inspector criticises the prison service for its failure over the years to stop overcrowding, which had resulted in "deeply unsatisfactory" conditions for staff and prisoners. The population of

1,104 compared with a certified normal accommodation figure of 985.

Most prisoners were still slopping out when the inspection took place in June 1994. An exercise yard covered by a cage for Category A prisoners was a "disgrace, contaminated by parcels of human excreta and bird droppings. It should be dismantled." Video games "which, regrettably and unwisely, have been recently installed, seemed in keeping with the general air of lethargy."

Last night Tony Fitzpatrick, the governor, said the judge's report was inaccurate in labelling Leeds as deeply unsatisfactory. "I accept that the conditions in the three Victorian wings at Armley are basic, but I cannot agree with the inspector's assertion that

conditions here are an affront to human dignity."

The £29 million redevelopment had produced two new wings, ending slopping out for 600 prisoners, and a health care centre, kitchen and sports complex, Mr Fitzpatrick said. In 1989 Judge Tumim condemned gross overcrowding for 1,171 prisoners at Armley. He found a squalid life to which staff and inmates had become inured and a "moribund regime" with limited constructive activity.

There had been too much concentration on packing in "as many prisoners as possible" and too little concern with giving them personal attention and physical activity to preserve self-esteem.

HM Prison Leeds, Report of the Chief Inspector of Prisons: Home Office, £1.50

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## Crime linked to unemployment

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

CRIME is linked to unemployment, a new study claims today, challenging the Government's insistence that there is no correlation between increased lawlessness and the number of people out of work.

The report from the independent Employment Policy Institute, acknowledging that the Government has "strongly resisted" any idea of unemployment being a cause of crime, maintains that the statistical evidence linking unemployment and crime is "much stronger than is commonly supposed".

The study says that Home Office research does not take sufficient account of the way that falls in unemployment lag behind economic recovery, and is not adjusted for inadequacies in official jobless figures. On closer examination, it says, changes in crime can be linked to

the state of the labour market. "The fact is that the nation's unemployment black spots - Cleveland, Merseyside, Northumbria, Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire, West Midlands, Greater London and South Wales - are also its crime black spots". The study accepts that it would be wrong to claim that all people out of work resorted to crime.

The study's author, Dr John Wells, an economics lecturer at Cambridge University, refers to a phrase coined by Tony Blair when the Labour leader was Shadow Home Secretary, saying: "If we are going to be 'tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime', then we have to come down hard on two of the very well-documented causes of crime: unemployment and poverty."

The Government strongly denied yesterday any link between crime and

unemployment. The Home Office said that while evidence varied, studies showed there was no link between unemployment and crime. "There is no single cause of crime," it said.

The Department of Employment said: "Unemployment does not cause crime. People commit crime." While both unemployment and crime were too high, it was incorrect to suggest that poverty and unemployment caused crime.

Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, will today announce the latest unemployment figures, which ministers hope will continue the two-year downward trend in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit. City forecasts are suggesting that unemployment could fall today by a further 36,000.

Leading article, page 17

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer South Love all. Rubber bridge

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	2♠ (1)	Pass
2NT (2)	Pass	3NT	Pass

Contract: 3NT by South. Opening lead: five of diamonds

By ROBERT SHEEHAN  
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

(1) Raising to Two Spades is correct in my view. The reason is that South is more likely to make a game try on a marginal hand after a raise than after a 1NT response. On this hand South would have passed 1NT and a good game would have been missed. If North had the queen of spades instead of the ace it would have been correct to respond 1NT.

(2) Normally you need 17 points to continue with 2NT in this sequence. However, when spades are supported the South hand improves - the straggle suit will now be a good source of tricks, and

South has two aces - important for the type of no-trump play in which declarer runs a long suit.

The declarer won East's nine of diamonds with the queen, and played a spade to the eight and jack. East returned a diamond won by South's ace, on which West played the king. South took that as a suit preference signal for the higher-ranking suit, so decided to play West for the king of hearts.

He picked up East's spades and ran the suit, and when West discarded three hearts and a club, the declarer played a low heart putting in the ten to make his contract.

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### New ratings

In the Professional Chess Association's latest rankings, Garry Kasparov has sunk to 2,789 points, well below his normal 2,800. Anatoly Karpov is second (2,759) and Gata Kamsky third (2,741).

### Sanghi leaders

Anatoly Karpov has won his sixth game against Boris Gelfand in Sanghi Nagar, India, and leads by 3½ to 2½. Gata Kamsky needs one draw to reach the Fide final.

White: Anatoly Karpov

Black: Boris Gelfand

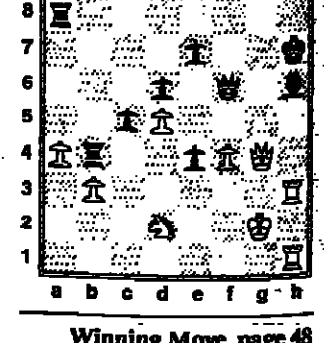
Sanghi Nagar, Game 6

Benko Gambit

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e5
3	cb5	b6
4	cb5	a6
5	ba6	g6
6	Nc3	Bxa6
7	e4	Bxf1
8	Kd1	d6
9	g3	Bg7
10	Kg2	Nbd7
11	Nf3	O-O
12	h3	Ra6
13	Bg5	h6
14	Bd2	Oa8
15	Rd1	Rb8
16	b3	Nc7
17	Re2	Nc7
18	Rc1	Ra7
19	Oc2	Na6
20	Na4	Nb4

21	Bxb4	Rxb4
22	Qd3	Ra5
23	Rac2	Ra6
24	Rc4	Rb8
25	Qd2	Rb5
26	Rf1c2	Rb7
27	Qe2	Ra7
28	Rd2	Ra5
29	Rd1	Qa6
30	Rd2	Bb6
31	Rac2	Bg7
32	Qc3	Qa8
33	Rd2	Ra7
34	Rd1	Rb5
35	Qe2	Rb6
36	Nd2	Nb6
37	Nb6	Rxb6
38	g4	Bh6
39	h4	h4
40	Qg4	h3
41	h5	h7
42	h6	Qg8
43	Rc3	R5
44	h3g6+	Qxg6
45	Qh4	Qh6
46	Rh1	h6
47	Rg3	Rb4
48	Qg4	Ra8
49	Rf8	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 48







# Bonn plans spot checks of foreigners to plug new holes in its borders

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

## GERMANY

GERMAN authorities plan snap checks of foreigners within a few miles of its borders with other European Union countries to try to plug some of the holes that will be opened next month by the Schengen agreement.

Bonn has promised to supply an extra 500 border police to the southwestern state of Baden-Württemberg, which has a common frontier with France. Provincial states like Bavaria already carry

out checks behind the frontier, monitoring cars coming from Austria.

Germany's borders with Poland and the Czech Republic, its eastern neighbours, have been tightly controlled for some time, although neither Poles nor Czechs need visas to enter the country. Agreements with Warsaw and Prague ensure that many potential refugees and asylum seekers from the Balkans are turned away long

before they reach the German frontier. Now many of these immigrants are trying to enter Germany across EU borders. According to the Baden-Württemberg interior ministry, 1,665 people entered the province illegally from France in the first eight months of last year. Most of the illegal immigrants are Albanians from Kosovo.

The figures are likely to jump dramatically from March 26, when the Schengen agreement is implemented in all EU states except Britain, Denmark and Ire-

land. Helmut Zorell, the Baden-Württemberg Interior Minister, has sent a formal request to Bonn for the federal authorities to "improve" the Schengen agreement by, for example, setting up cross-border observation and giving police the right of pursuit in neighbouring states, as well as enhancing the unsatisfactory international police controls currently in force.

Bonn, by promising the extra border police, seems to agree that such hinterland policing is necessary. The Schengen agreement

allows extra controls under Article 2 only as an exceptional and temporary measure if public order or national security are threatened and only if the affected member states are consulted. But there seems to be nothing to prevent random checks in the hinterland, some miles beyond the actual border. Baden-Württemberg is urging Bonn to begin talks with France about introducing equivalent controls on the French side of the border.

The irony of Schengen is that open frontiers may lead to greater

police controls in everyday life. The current borders between Germany and the Benelux states have been informally open for a few years: it is already possible to travel by train without any identity documents between Berlin, Amsterdam and Brussels.

This has indirectly spurred some social reforms in Germany. Since soft drugs can be bought over the counter in Dutch coffee shops, Germany too has had to consider liberalising its policy on the use of cannabis. Informal police co-operation has become the

order of the day in border towns such as Maastricht, with Belgian and German police sometimes allowed to pursue suspected criminals across the border into Dutch territory.

Schengen may actually lead to a tightening of these controls. But Germany's main concern is that Islamic activists, in trouble in France, will use Germany as a shelter. Some Algerian fundamantalists have already set up a base outside Cologne, causing some friction between France and Germany.

## Britain's border controls face Euro court test

BY MICHAEL DYNES  
AND GEORGE BROCK

THE European Court of Justice is preparing to hold its first formal hearings on the abolition of internal frontier controls in the spring, court officials in Luxembourg confirmed yesterday.

The hearings can be expected to provoke a furious response from Tory Euro-sceptics, who fear the Government is being forced to abolish Britain's internal frontier checks against terrorists, drug traffickers, criminals and illegal immigrants. Legal action is being brought by the European Parliament against the European Commission for its failure to force Britain and Ireland to abolish their internal frontier controls, as required by the terms of the Single European Act.

Britain and Ireland have insisted that they obtained an exemption from the Single

## EU LAW

European Act commitment to create a Europe without frontiers. The Commission has never endorsed this view, although it has hitherto failed to resolve the issue.

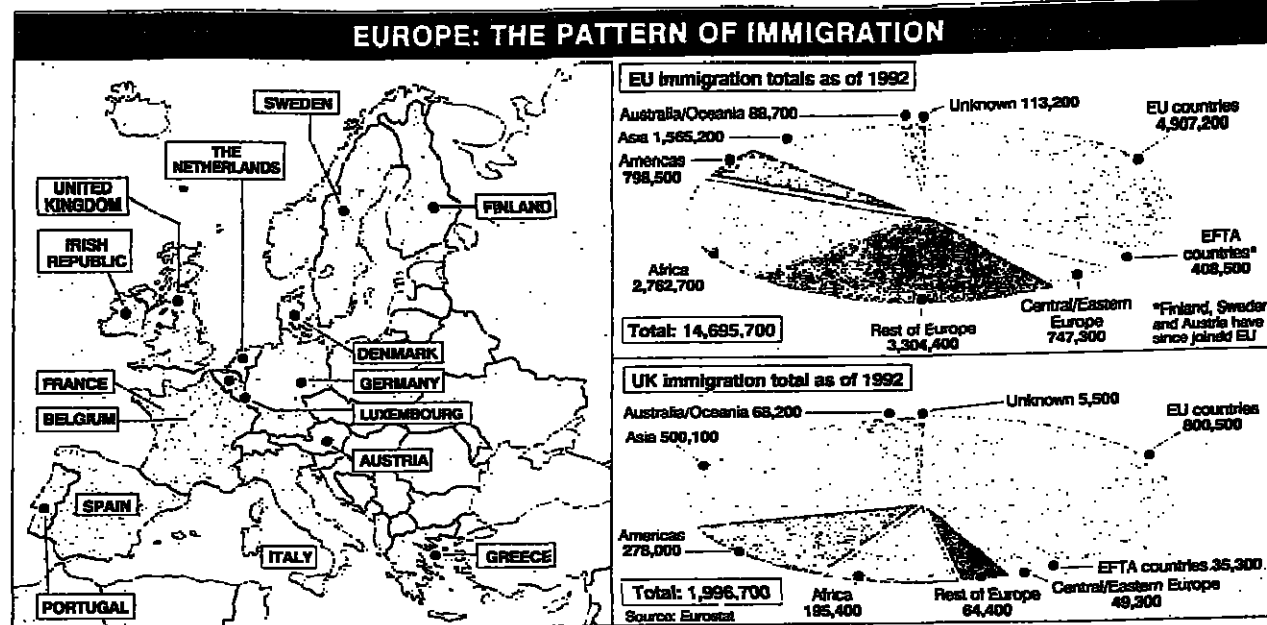
Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, will today signal to MEPs that he wants to end Britain's passport checks on EU travellers. But his declaration is likely to demonstrate more shadow than substance.

Commission officials yesterday said that, while they continued to object to Britain's retention of border controls, any action by Brussels will be cautious, careful, and will take account of the views of national governments. One official, bridling at British tabloid newspaper reports suggesting that the Commission can and will strike down Britain's frontier controls in the near future, admitted: "It's a bloody difficult issue."

Under European law, EU institutions have the right to take legal action against other Union institutions for failing to carry out their obligations. That process was set in motion by the European Parliament in November 1993, when it lodged a complaint against the Commission claiming that Brussels had failed to create a Europe without internal frontiers.

It is by no means certain that the court would find against the Commission, which would have the effect of forcing Brussels to move against Britain and Ireland. But Britain and France, which are anxious to have their voices heard, have already intervened in the case against the parliament in support of Brussels.

Preliminary written procedures, which outline the merits of the case, were completed last December. The first hearings are expected to take place in the spring, although no date has been set. A decision is unlikely to be made before the end of the year, officials say.



last December. The first hearings are expected to take place in the spring, although no date has been set. A decision is unlikely to be made before the end of the year, officials say.

The court may decide, however, that member states need more time to resolve the issue, in which case it would be up to next year's Inter-Governmental Conference to settle the issue. Should the court decide that the Commission has failed to carry out its treaty obligations, the Commission may then be forced to initiate legal action against Britain

and Ireland for their refusal to abolish internal frontier controls in line with Article 7a of the European Single Act. Under the protracted three-stage process for legal proceedings against infringement of European Union law by member states, the Commission would first notify the offending country that it had failed to carry out its legal obligations and invite it to reply to the allegations.

If the Commission is not satisfied, it initiates the second stage by issuing what is known as a "reasoned opinion", in which the Commission sets out chapter and verse of the alleged infringement, giving the member state a deadline to comply by — usually of two or three months' duration.

If the member state still fails to comply by the allotted deadline, the Commission will start legal action in the court, forcing the member state to fall into line or face the prospect of a heavy fine to be determined by the Commission. Although the Commission has argued for several years that Britain should not check

the identities of travellers arriving from ports and airports inside the EU, Britain counter-claims that bona fide EU citizens can only be distinguished from non-EU travellers through passport checks, and that a treaty footnote recognises this.

Even if Britain found itself isolated on the issue, its combination of veto over any proposed EU directive and eventual resort to the EU court would mean that passport officers will continue to staff the booths at Dover and Heathrow for years to come.

## Pasqua resists abolition of controls

FROM ADAM SAGE  
IN PARIS

## FRANCE

CAUGHT between a pro-European President and a singularly sceptical Interior Minister, France has long known that the abolition of passport controls is fraught with tension and difficulty. After more than two years of hesitation, the French Government said last December that it was ready to implement the Schengen agreement and abandon border checks within the European Union. But its grudging acceptance of an accord that was meant to come into effect in January 1993 indicated that the issue still stirs strong emotions in sections of the Cabinet.

Foremost among the sceptics is Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister, whose fight against illegal immigration has been central to his policies since his appointment in 1993. M Pasqua has avoided ex-

pressing outright opposition to the abolition of border controls for fear of upsetting President Mitterrand, a keen supporter of Schengen. Yet critics of the Gaullist Interior Minister suspect that he nonetheless wants to subvert the spirit if not the letter of the agreement. In 1993, for instance, tough new anti-immigration measures were introduced in what the Government said was a necessary counterweight to Schengen.

However, implementation was delayed for well over a year because of "technical hitches" with a French-designed computer system that is to contain information on criminals, illegal immigrants and other "undesirables" throughout the Schengen area. Described as a vital element in the policy, this system — known as SIS — was

given the go-ahead just before Christmas. Almost immediately, M Pasqua found another problem in the allegedly lax attitude of Dutch authorities towards drug traffickers.

"We are very favourable towards Schengen but it has to work," a close adviser to M Pasqua said yesterday. "We have therefore adopted a pragmatic attitude. Schengen must be a plus and not a minus for the EU. If it is a minus, it's obvious that Europe will suffer another blow."

He said that a new 6,200-strong French police force set up last October to lead the fight against "clandestine immigration" would help to plug the gaps that Schengen would inevitably create. So too, he added, would an agreement that French and German police can chase suspects up to almost 20 miles into each other's territory.

Nevertheless, M Pasqua,

who finally agreed that Schengen could come into operation at the end of next month, has insisted on a three-month period that he describes as a "trial" and which his more enthusiastic German counterparts describe as an "initial phase".

During this period, passport controls at French borders will be maintained, although those at airports will be abolished. "We want to see whether there is an effective control on Europe's external frontiers to judge whether the system works as we wish," M Pasqua's aide said.

Again, however, critics suspect that the Interior Minister is being less than open. They point out that by the end of the three-month trial, President Mitterrand will have retired and M Pasqua will — or so he hopes — have become Prime Minister, putting him in a strong position to reform the agreement.

## Gibraltar dispute blocks deal to boost external barriers

BY MICHAEL DYNES

## FRONTIERS

PROPOSALS to erect an external barrier against illegal immigrants, drug traffickers and terrorists to compensate for the abolition of internal frontiers are in deadlock. Home Office officials confirmed yesterday.

A draft text of the European Frontiers Convention was agreed by European Union interior ministers in June 1991, but was not signed because of Spanish objections to British territorial claims over Gibraltar.

The creation of the external frontier was further complicated in 1993 following an attempt by the European Commission to link the implementation of the new external

frontier with the abolition of internal barriers.

Britain objected to the Commission's initiative on the grounds that external and internal controls are separate issues and must not be linked, because linkage would undermine the Government's determination to retain internal frontier controls.

The frontiers convention, which embraces five broad policy areas, is designed to tighten up external access to the 15 members of the Union.

The five areas are:   
□ A uniform European Union visa: A comprehensive list of countries whose citizens would have to obtain a visa

before entering any member of the European Union.

□ A visa exemption regime: An exemption for people resident in the European Union who are not citizens, and who want to visit other member states for short periods.

□ A three-month short visit visa: This is designed for people who are not citizens or resident in any EU member state but who want to visit for a short period.

□ Prohibited list: A computerised list of known criminals, terrorists and drug traffickers who have been prohibited entry to any member state.

□ Redesign of airports: The re-configuration of airports throughout the EU to ensure that all domestic and external arrivals are separated.

## Hurd champions European diversity

FROM NICHOLAS GEORGE  
IN STOCKHOLM

ANY attempt to impose "massive changes" at the inter-governmental conference in 1996 would lead Europe into a "bog", Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

He gave a warning that concentrating power in a centralised European Union would be to turn against European geography and history. The priority was expansion of both the Union and Nato, a process that he said "must not lose steam or fall prey to doubt".

In a speech to the Institute of International Relations in Stockholm, Mr Hurd said the present structure of the EU was right, although it could work better. "Some argue that Europe is strengthened by



Hurd: "Nato and EU must be expanded"

uniformity where geography and history have created diversity — that would be to push too far, to run against the grain of our history and the instincts of our peoples."

Mr Hurd also said: "It would be a huge mistake at the inter-governmental conference in 1996 or 1997 for politicians to agree massive changes which were then rejected by national parliaments or people. We should have learned from the experience after Maastricht, which was narrowly rescued from disaster in more than one country. To disregard that lesson would be to leap forward — but into a bog."

The Foreign Secretary, who met Ingvar Carlsson, the Prime Minister, and other Swedish ministers, said the tide of new laws from Brussels had been halved between 1991

and 1994. "We have seen a wider realisation that a Commission which fuses its way into every corner of its citizens' lives is not strengthening those citizens' commitment to the European idea, but risks weakening it," he said. "Today emphasis on subsidiarity, and today's conviction that we need fewer laws, better observed, are things that Britain has fought hard to bring about."

Mr Hurd said that in the next decade, member states must "share the fruits of successful partnership: to extend more widely the benefits of security and prosperity, and to entrench them in our neighbourhood to the East". This meant the further enlargement of both the EU and Nato. "The process of reaching out must not lose steam. It must not fall prey to doubt."

## U-turn on Cambodia aid ruling

London: Britain has rescinded a controversial order insisting that all aid agencies funded by the Government withdraw non-Cambodian personnel from the Cambodian countryside (Michael Binyon writes). The change comes less than two weeks after the original order caused uproar among the 13 British agencies there.

At a meeting yesterday, Tony Baldry, a junior Foreign Office minister, and the Forum on Cambodia of non-governmental organisations agreed that foreign aid workers could remain in the countryside, where several foreigners have been kidnapped and murdered by Khmer Rouge rebels this year, provided there was regular security liaison with the embassy.

## Chechnia truce fails to hold

Moscow: The temporary ceasefire in Chechnia was repeatedly broken yesterday by both the Russian and the Chechen sides, but commanders of both forces reaffirmed their commitment to continue with it. Opposing military leaders are due to meet again today in neighbouring Ingushetia to try to expand the present agreement not to use heavy weapons.

In Stockholm, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that the Kremlin's actions in Chechnia were jeopardising support for the process of reform in Russia.

## Death sentence for hijacker

Rostov-on-Don: The Azerbaijani ringleader of a gang that took a group of schoolchildren hostage in southern Russia in December 1993 and then tried to escape by helicopter was sentenced to death yesterday. Musa Alamedov, 52, who is seriously ill with tuberculosis, said the sentence was unfair, but accepted it. "Had I been put in prison I would have died there," he told the court here. The other five gang members received sentences of between 10 and 15 years' hard labour for the four-day hijacking. (Reuters)

## Eight killed in canyon crash

Tusayan, Arizona: The pilot and seven of the ten passengers on a plane flying tourists over the Grand Canyon died when it lost an engine, crashed and caught fire while trying to return to an airport. Rescuers were hindered by rain, thick mud and patchy snow on the back roads of the Ponderosa pine forest south of the canyon, where the twin-engine Piper Navajo flown by Las Vegas Airlines crashed. The two survivors, both women, were critically injured and underwent surgery at nearby hospitals. (AP)

## Walesa names his candidates

Warsaw: President Walesa, having brought down Poland's left-wing Government, set tough terms yesterday for the man who is trying to form a new administration. A spokesman said the President is insisting that Jozef Oleksy, the prospective Prime Minister, should accept his nominees for the key defence, foreign affairs and interior ministries. (Reuters)

## Valentines rush to tie the knot

Singapore: Marriage was efficient, if not overly romantic, as more than 1,000 couples celebrated Valentine's Day by tying the knot here. The rush was a result of February 14 coinciding this year with the fifteenth day of the lunar new year, the Chinese equivalent of Valentine's Day. (AP)

Day Three... When faith is the only solution... to the impossible

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THE TIME

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BY DAVID... PRESIDENT... Mexico... a... military... lous... surprise... off... City and... d... "provoke... with the... who launched... January last year... In an earlier... mive... ruling party... stepped down... said was a... peace efforts... was likely to... sions in the... Government began... to capture... leaders... Today I am giving... instructions to the... General's Office and... the Army that they... can't out any action... may provoke armed... talon (in Chiapas)... Zedillo said "The M... Army will not take... sive action and will... itself to patrols... CIA

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# French isolated in move to build culture barriers

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BORDEAUX

FRENCH attempts to forge new European barriers to American "cultural colonialism" appeared doomed last night as Germany and other main partners joined with Britain Heritage Secretary in rejecting tighter quotas on imported television shows.

Strong resistance from Europe's Union Culture Ministers meeting in Bordeaux one day after Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister and presidential favourite, proclaimed the protection of Europe's cultural heritage to be one of the main goals of his campaign. Since the start of the French EU presidency last month, French ministers have been painting apocalyptic visions of a fragile Europe ravaged by Hollywood soap operas.

Clearly shaken back by the resistance from north Euro-

pean states to France's protectionist drive, Jacques Toubon, its Culture Minister, last night delivered an impassioned harangue against the "squeeze" attitude of the British and other ministers who rejected protectionist measures. "Europe is not just about quotas on cars or our ability to make and sell aeroplanes," he said. "I asked my colleagues, 'Don't you want Europe to exist culturally, even to exist at all?'" M. Toubon vowed to fight on.

The Gaullist Culture Minister faced an uphill struggle in Bordeaux trying to win support mainly for toughening the so-called Television sans Frontières (TSF) directive, which sets a voluntary limit of 50 per cent on broadcasting of non-EU programmes.

As expected, Stephen Dorrell, Britain's Heritage

Secretary, led the opposition to the French attempt to use the law to shore up *les oeuvres audiovisuelles communautaires*. He was supported in varying degrees by Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands and Ireland. The surprise was Germany, which proclaimed that quotas had no place in regulating what people watched. "We do not have a European car, we don't see why there should be a European film," Helmut Schaefer of Germany told reporters.

M. Toubon singled out Britain for scathing attack, wondering why London rejected the notion of quotas when the BBC far exceeded the minimum of domestically produced programming prescribed by the TSF directive of 1989. "If they already do it voluntarily, why do they refuse to follow me?"

A Danish Government official gave the alternative view as M. Toubon looked on. "We think quotas are for fishery policy and not for culture. Culture is something special and we don't see any evidence that quotas give any benefit."

Only the Greeks appeared fully to support the French view, British officials said. "The weight of opinion is heavily against the tightening of quotas," Mr Dorrell said.

Complicating the quota issue is the explosion of entertainment sources with satellites and new multimedia services. In its crusade to hold back what they see as the stifling power of the Americans, France wants urgent action to curb American firms which are "pillaging" the museums of Europe for distribution on CD-ROM discs.

"We will be in a position of being digitally colonised," M. Toubon said. "We will be like the Ivory Coast which sells its cocoa to France in order to buy it back as chocolate... We must say to our museums: 'Don't accept the digitalisation of your images proposed by Apple or Microsoft'."

While Britain, Germany and the north European states favour programmes to stimulate the European multimedia industry, they reject all such French notions of imposing protective barriers.



An addict injects heroin beside the barbed wire at Zurich's notorious "Needle Park" after the area was fenced off in a police crackdown. Switzerland yesterday attempted a fresh start in dealing with its thousands of drug addicts after closing the park where junkies and dealers from all over Europe had been free to trade and use heroin and cocaine (Sharmila Devi writes). At its height, up to 4,000 addicts would descend on the Letten Bahnhof stretch of disused railway track while to buy, sell and

## Swiss seek new drugs policy after 'Needle Park' crackdown

inject drugs, while the state turned a blind eye. Health workers estimated that every other day at least one addict would die from an overdose.

A nationwide programme to arrest dealers, forcibly return Swiss addicts to their home cantons and deport foreign addicts culminated with yes-

terday's midnight deadline for all junkies to clear the area. The deadline passed without incident.

A wider debate is now raging on how Switzerland should proceed to deal with addicts, prostitutes and others on the fringe of society. The city of Bern has announced it will

double its experimental heroin distribution programme to reach up to 1,000 hardened addicts.

Now that Letten is fenced off, street prices are expected to rise. When the Swiss cracked down in 1992 on the original "Needle Park" near Zurich's city museum, prices rose sharply. This has provided further ammunition for the sizeable minority who argue for at least limited decriminalisation of drugs to remove the profit motive for dealers and to reduce drug-related crime.

## Claret kings suffer case of sour grapes

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRENCH wine producers have reacted furiously to an American attempt to re-write a 140-year-old classification of some of their most prestigious vintages.

The "reclassification", conducted by a jury in San Francisco, has prompted talk of treacherous war among the chateaux owners of southwest France's most experts accept that some kind of reform was needed.

In 1855 Napoleon III asked for a list of the finest Bordeaux, a request that resulted in five being given the label Premier Cru. Lafite-Rothschild, Margaux, Latour, Haut-Brion and Yquem. A further 57 wines were labelled second to 50th.

Since then various French Governments have passed decrees classifying other Bordeaux that had been ignored in 1855. 12 St-Emilion wines were awarded the Premier Cru label in 1969, 5 was Mouton-Rothschild in 1973.

The reclassification was organised by Gordon Getty, the millionaire, and Robert

Finigan of the American magazine *Wines and Spirits*. For four days in January, some of the world's leading wine experts, including Serena Sutcliffe of Sotheby's, sat in a San Francisco hotel, tasting and discussing and finally producing a new list that has just been made public.

Inevitably, there were some shocks for world of French viticulture. The most celebrated names — wines such as Latour and Lafite — were pushed out of the top three by other Bordeaux: Pichon-Longueville finished first, Lynch-Bages second and Haut-Brion third.

The result has been outrage. As the French newspaper *Libération* pointed out, the 1855 classification may be flawed but it is seen as a "historic monument".

All of the Bordeaux vineyards were destroyed in the phylloxera epidemic of 1863, just eight years after the classification. Ironically, they were replanted with vines from California, the only ones that were phylloxera-resistant.

## Chiapas offensive called off by Mexico

BY DAVID ADAMS

PRESIDENT ZEDILLO of Mexico yesterday abandoned a controversial five-day-old military offensive in the rebellious southern state of Chiapas. He announced the surprise decision at a meeting of indigenous groups in Mexico City and said he had ordered the army not to "provoke armed confrontation" with the Zapatista rebels, who launched an uprising in January last year.

In an earlier conciliatory move, the ruling party Governor of Chiapas, stepped down in what he said was a contribution to peace efforts. His resignation was likely to help ease tensions in the state after the Government began its offensive to capture Zapatista leaders.

"Today I am giving precise instructions to the Attorney-General's Office and the Mexican Army that they do not carry out any action which may provoke armed confrontation [in Chiapas]," Señor Zedillo said. "The Mexican Army will not take any offensive action and will restrict itself to patrols aimed at



Maria Guevara, an alleged Zapatista commander, listens as a prosecutor in Mexico City reads charges against her

preventing acts of violence," he added. The Zapatistas had demanded Señor Robledo's resignation as a precondition for peace talks with the Zedillo Government. Observers assume that Señor Robledo was forced to resign after pressure from Señor Zedillo, who has been under growing criticism for ordering the assault on Chiapas.

Independent election observers backed allegations of widespread fraud by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party in the state elections last August. Señor Robledo took office in December but has since been challenged by a rival rebel transition administration, which claims that the opposition left-wing Democratic Revolutionary Party won the election.

Amada Avendano, the Revolutionary Party candidate, is the popular editor of a

local newspaper in the town of San Cristóbal de las Casas. Señor Avendano and his followers have strongly opposed government efforts to crush the Zapatistas and support the civil rights and property claims of the state's landless indigenous majority.

Señor Robledo called on Mgr Samuel Ruiz, the Bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas, who has mediated during the rebellion but was recently accused of having links to the Zapatistas, to resign as well to show "that his true interest was always that of Chiapas".

The rebels launched their insurgency last year to demand basic rights and services for the impoverished Indian peasants of the southern state. More than 145 people were killed before a ceasefire was declared.

Photograph, page 24

## America opposes four-nation peace plan for Bosnia

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Clinton Administration is opposing a new plan drawn up by the five-nation Contact Group in a last-ditch effort to resolve the Bosnian conflict.

The plan envisages the suspension of all economic sanctions against Serbia in exchange for Serbia recognising all new Balkan states, accepting the Contact Group's proposed territorial division of Bosnia, and ending all support for the Bosnian Serbs.

President Milosevic of Serbia would also have to endorse the so-called Z-4 peace plan for Croatia under which Croatian Serbs would be given wide autonomy in return for recognising Croatia's territorial integrity.

Britain, France, Russia and Germany broadly support the plan, which the Contact Group was discussing in Paris yesterday and the French want to present to a three-way summit involving the presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia.

But the Clinton Administration fears that suspending all sanctions would enable Serbia to rebuild itself and then renege on its commitments, and that such a large concession to Mr Milosevic would arouse strong congressional opposition.

A memorandum leaked in Washington yesterday suggested that America would push a "more conservative alternative" under which certain sanctions against Serbia would be temporarily lifted but not those involving strategic goods such as oil, coal, iron, steel, chemicals, financial loans and various means of transportation.

It is doubtful whether Mr Milosevic would accept even the broader plan, because that would be tantamount to renouncing his vision of a Greater Serbia. But if he did show interest Washington would come under considerable international pressure to relent in order to achieve a negotiated settlement. Croatia

has threatened to expel all 12,000 UNPROFOR peacekeeping troops from its territory by the end of March, a move that could well lead to a new war between Croatian government forces and Croatian Serb separatists.

The four-month ceasefire in Bosnia ends on May 1, when better weather will make heavy fighting possible again and Congress is threatening unilaterally to lift the UN arms embargo against Bosnia's Muslims. Such a drastic move would cause a profound rift with America's NATO allies and undermine the UN.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday that hundreds and possibly thousands of people in Bosnia's Bihać pocket could soon die of starvation unless Serb forces allowed relief convoys through. It said requests to the UN and Nato for air drops of food to the beleaguered enclave had so far been turned down because of the threat from Serb anti-aircraft batteries.

"We don't know of anyone who has starved to death yet but it's certainly possible in the very near future if this [Serb blockade] continues," Ron Redmond, the UNHCR spokesman, told a news briefing in Geneva. "We demand to be given access to help these innocent people."

In Sarajevo a UNHCR official said a ten-ton convoy due to have left Zagreb for Bihać on Monday had not been given clearance by the Bosnian Serbs so would not go.

"They are stringing us along," Mr Redmond said in a reference to the Bosnian Serb authorities in their headquarters, Pale, and the Croatian Serb leadership in Knin in Serb-held Croatia.

"Ultimately, responsibility rests with those who are blocking us... it would be an absolute horror for the international community to see these people starve," he said.

## Jail lifts penalty on Tyson

New York: Mike Tyson, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, has had his original release date of March 25 reinstated, a prison department spokesman told the *Indianapolis Star*.

Tyson, 28, was sentenced to six years in jail after he was convicted in February 1992 of raping Desiree Washington, a contestant in a beauty competition. His release date was put back to May 9 after he was disciplined in May 1992 for threatening a guard and disorderly conduct at the Indiana Youth Centre in Plainfield.

Pam Pattison, the spokeswoman, said that the commissioner in charge had decided that Tyson's misconduct was likely to have been caused by difficulties in adjusting to prison. Since then, Tyson was said to have been a model prisoner. (Reuters)

## Former Nazi poison firm loses land claim

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE successor of Nazi Germany's poison gas maker has had its hopes dashed of reclaiming some prime property in the centre of Berlin.

Germany's Federal Administrative Court has ruled against the IG Farben company and hundreds of other claimants, including descendants of the Prussian aristocracy and suspected Nazi collaborators, who said that they had rights to confiscated land currently valued at about £16 billion.

The verdict ends one of the most bitter of Germany's post-unification legal battles and will speed up construction work on Berlin sites, such as the Potsdamerplatz, which has been held up because of uncertain land ownership.

Under the terms of the 1990 German unification treaty, owners of property confiscated by the Nazis between 1933 and

1945, and by East German communists between 1949 and 1990, could claim compensation for restitution. There was an exception: property confiscated by the Soviet administration which governed East Germany until October 1949 was not considered a German liability. This included the natural targets of Soviet commissars such as Prussian landowners.

IG Farben — now a mere shell company — had its property confiscated because of its close involvement with the Nazi movement. The chemicals company helped to fund the Nazi party and produced, among other war materials, the Zyklon B gas used in concentration camps to kill millions of people. The successor company had claimed that it was entitled to 130,000 sq metres (32 acres) of property in Berlin.

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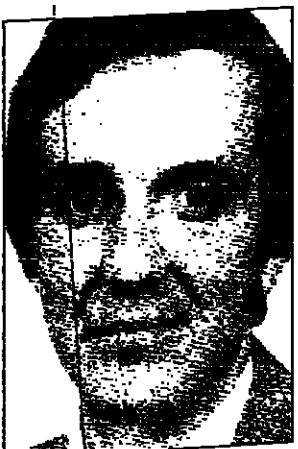
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## CIA traitor tells of return from Russia for love

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON



Howard says he never spied for the Kremlin

EDWARD LEE HOWARD, the CIA traitor, claims in a new memoir that he slipped back into the United States nine months after fleeing to Moscow in September 1985.

Howard says he returned because he wanted to speak to his wife before announcing his defection. Before he saw her, however, he met a "KGB contact" in a park in an eastern American city who showed him classified Justice Department and FBI reports. These said the US Government considered his wife a trusted informant who would immediately report any attempt by him to contact her.

This was a "terrible, crushing disappointment", Howard writes in *Safe*

House, obtained by *The Washington Post* before its publication next month. He decided that "the only way that I would ever see my family again was to return to Moscow, defect and invite them to openly visit me."

Howard describes the "KGB contact" who showed him the papers only as a man in jogging clothes who was "obviously not a Russian". According to the *Post*, the FBI is now trying to establish whether Howard's story is true, in which case there must be another Russian mole operating inside the Government.

He also says that he was identified as a spy by Vitali Yurchenko, the KGB defector, in August 1985 in order to deflect attention from Aldrich Ames, the CIA spy who has admitted he began passing classified information to Mos-

cow two months earlier. The colonel "defected" back to Moscow at the end of 1985, so Howard's book reopens the question of whether his initial defection was genuine, or merely contrived to feed false information to the CIA and the FBI.

Howard denies spying for Moscow, but the newspaper quotes officials who say they did not believe Howard's explanation of Colonel Yurchenko's actions. Howard was dismissed by the CIA for poor conduct in 1983 and settled in New Mexico. He foiled agents sent to arrest him after he had been exposed by the colonel, and later turned up in Moscow. He claims he spent months preparing for his clandestine return to America, acquiring a false passport and receiving KGB training in "how to handle border crossings and police questioning".



# Hekmatyar forced to flee by army of student radicals

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

A NEWLY formed army of Islamic students capped its stunning advance through Afghanistan yesterday by overrunning a key rebel base south of Kabul, placing it within striking distance of the capital. This has overturned all military and political equations in the shattered country.

The army of young radicals captured Charasayab, 15 miles south of Kabul, the headquarters of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Pashtun extremist who has relentlessly shelled the city in an attempt to seize power from the Tajik factions that hold it. Mr Hekmatyar fled so fast he left behind personal property, including clothes and papers. He is believed to have set up a new headquarters in the town of Sarobi, 35 miles east of Kabul.

He said government jets had pounded Charasayab while Taleban, the student army, and government forces mounted a land attack. His spokesman admitted that heavy equipment had been abandoned in the flight. "The situation is very, very bad."

At least 15,000 people have died in Kabul since the collapse of the communist Government in 1992, most of them from Mr Hekmatyar's shells. One of the world's largest refugee camps, with 750,000 people, has grown up east of the capital near Jalalabad.

Food convoys from the United Nations and the Red Crescent began pouring into the city a few days ago after Taleban opened a supply route from the south. That brought rare hope to a city struggling to survive cold, hunger and war. Most of Logar province south of Kabul is now in Taleban's hands, the ninth of Afghanistan's 30



provinces to fall to the mysterious group. A third of the country is under its control.

Taleban, formed only six months ago, rose out of Afghan refugees studying in Islamic schools in neighbouring Pakistan, from which it doubtless receives much of its funding. It has drawn admiration both from Islamabad and Washington for its crusade against the drugs trade, which has funded fighting between rival warlords. Afghanistan is one of the world's largest producers of raw opium.

A multiparty council involving former Mujahidin fighters is due to assume power on Monday from President Rabbani under a United Nations peace plan. There will be a question mark over the plan, however, until it becomes clear whether Taleban intends to try to take Kabul forcibly. So far, it has refused to have anything to do with the former Mujahidin.

Taleban has not lost a battle since beginning its relentless march through the country, but it now faces the formidable Kabul defence forces led by Ahmad Shah Masood, a Tajik warlord with an impressive record of military victories. His men seized Kabul after the communist Government fell.

The Afghan Defence Ministry said the Government con-

trolled almost all areas around the city except territory held by Hezb-i-Wahadat, a Shia group, where fighting was continuing. The group had been guaranteed safe passage if it abandoned its enclave of Karte Seh in the southwest of the city. The Government also claimed to have recaptured Kunduz, 150 miles north of Kabul, from the forces of the Uzbek warlord, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, a former Government ally who switched sides just over a year ago.

"Although the Taleban are getting very close to Kabul, we don't believe they will try to attack," the Defence Ministry said. "We believe we can work with them," it said.

Taleban has pledged to "cleanse Afghanistan in the name of Islam". Its success seems to be due in large measure to popular support among Afghans who are sick of factional fighting.



Gulbuddin Hekmatyar: thousands have died in his campaign to take Kabul

## Wall Street put on terror alert over shaikh bomb trial

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WALL STREET has been put on a terrorism alert after informers told police that Muslim extremists were planning to "strike at the heart of American capitalism" and may be targeting one of New York's stock exchanges.

At least two informants are reported to have warned of a revenge attack to coincide with the trial of the radical Egyptian cleric Shaikh Omar Abdel-Rahman and 11 of his followers on terrorism conspiracy charges in New York. The attack was apparently ordered in January and is to take place before the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on March 2.

Law enforcement sources quoted by *New York Newsday* described the tips as "uncomfortably credible".

Police have met business leaders in the lower Manhattan financial district and circulated a memorandum warning Wall Street firms to keep their buildings under "constant scrutiny". Extra police officers have been assigned to patrol the Wall Street area and traffic has

been restricted near the New York Stock Exchange.

Prosecutors in a case against Shaikh Abdel-Rahman and his followers have compiled a list of 172 possible terrorist suspects living in the New York area. The authorities describe the list as "unindicted persons who may be alleged as co-conspirators and have handed their names to the judge in the terrorism conspiracy trial."

Among those on the list is the Sudan's mission to the United Nations, on which the Sudan is in a plan to join the United Nations headquarters.

Meanwhile, Kuwait has provided new information on the mysterious mancoised of masterminding the World Trade Centre bombing in 1993. Ramzi Ahmed al-Baz, Interior Minister, said Youssef who was captured in Pakistan last week and flown to the United States to face charges, was a former Kuwaiti resident who helped Iraqi forces during the Gulf War. The Foreign Office in London says he studied at Swansea University.

## Teenage mother flogged in public

By Christopher Thomas

A BANGLADESHI girl of 17 has been given 110 lashes in public with a bamboo cane for allegedly having an illegitimate child. The incident is the latest in a rising trend of floggings by self-appointed Islamic courts that have no legal standing. However, the Government in Dhaka is wary of the power of the clergy and reluctant to intervene.

The village headman and *fatwas* (mullahs who interpret religious matters) imposed the sentence on Lili Begum at Tembulpur village, in northern Bangladesh, according to *Ittefaq*, a Bengali daily newspaper. The daughter of a labourer, she became pregnant by a man who refused to marry her. The entire village turned out to watch the flogging.

She had married another man while pregnant but the mullahs forced her husband to divorce her. Islamic clerics are becoming increasingly assertive in applying their interpretations of Sharia (Islamic law). Clerics wield their power in remote villages where most people are illiterate and there is little or no police activity.

Women's rights groups estimate that at least 48 women have died in recent years after being convicted of violating Sharia. Most committed suicide rather than face humiliation. "It is difficult to get a clear picture because many incidents occur in remote villages and the victims do not report to police for fear of reprisals," said Ayesha Khanam, a women's rights activist.

There is rising tension between fundamentalist clerics and voluntary agencies that promote literacy, healthcare and family planning in rural Bangladesh. Some foreign aid organisations run projects to provide women with employment, bringing them into conflict with clerical groups. Some fundamentalist mullahs are demanding the expulsion of all foreign aid workers.

About 1,400 schools for women were vandalised by fundamentalists last year, and women working for voluntary agencies were declared social outcasts. Husbands have been forced to divorce women who received money or healthcare from the agencies. Women's groups have staged protests against punishments which have been imposed by clerics in "kangaroo courts".

## Bhutto decries sentence

Islamabad: Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, said she was "shocked and unhappy" about the death sentence imposed on a 14-year-old Christian boy for blaspheming Islam. The country's Christians, who staged a fast on Sunday, called for a second hunger strike a week today.

The Lahore High Court will today hear an appeal by the two Christians, officials said. Salamat Masih and his uncle, Rehmat Masih, 40, were sentenced to death for throwing paper containing blasphemous words into a mosque. At the time of the incident, Salamat was 11, and said to be illiterate. (AFP)

**Anti-Islamic activist killed**  
Dhaka: Debashish Bhattacharya, an anti-Islamic student activist, was pulled from a bus and shot dead by unidentified assailants as more than 50 other passengers looked on in horror, Bangladesh police said.

The attack happened outside Rajshahi University, 120 miles northwest of Dhaka, a day after two Islamic student activists were killed on the campus during a gunfight with supporters of Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister. No one had yet been arrested, the police said.

**Ecuador agrees truce with Peru**  
Lima: Peru and Ecuador agreed a ceasefire in their 19-day border conflict but both claimed control of three disputed frontier posts in the Amazon. President Fujimori said that the Peruvian Government had declared a ceasefire due to take effect at noon yesterday and Ecuador later accepted it. Peru claimed to have taken Cueva de los Tayos, Base Sur and Tiwinza, but Ecuador said it had not lost any posts. (Reuters)

**Claim sunk**  
Marseilles: The French Federation of Underwater Sport and Studies has refused to recognise that Guy Delage swam across the Atlantic, saying that currents and wind played a bigger part in his achievement. It took him 55 days to reach Barbados after setting out from the Cape Verde Islands. (AFP)

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Families of Islamic suicide bombers 'should be deported'

# Sharon calls for terror purge

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN TEL AVIV

ARIEL SHARON, the former Israeli Defence Minister and prominent member of the main right-wing Likud opposition party, yesterday outlined a draconian plan for dealing with Islamic terrorism, including the deportation of the families of Palestinian suicide bombers and helicopter assaults on the newly autonomous Gaza Strip.

"The families of these 'human bombs' should be brought from the Palestinian-controlled areas or those we control and deported to Lebanon or to Sudan, where there are Palestinians now training with Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]," Mr Sharon said. "They could also be taken to other places where Hamas train. There are many possibilities. Let us start with the close families. I am sure that will bother them."

Mr Sharon, speaking as opinion polls showed a huge swing to the Right in advance of the general election next year, emphasised that Israel should immediately abandon the peace process, which even the Labour Government admits now has only 35 per cent public support, and launch an operation to "eliminate" leading members of groups such as Islamic Jihad and



Sharon: may have election deal with Likud leader

Hamas. He hinted that under Likud, Israel would take action abroad against leaders such as Fathi Shkaki, of Islamic Jihad, who gloated in interviews at his Syrian headquarters about last month's attack at Netanyu, in which 21 Jews were killed and 62 wounded. "The main target is not the boys," Mr Sharon said. "The problem is how to deal with those who convince them, those who preach to them, those who betray them."

In an angry 90-minute interview, Mr Sharon claimed that intelligence existed to show that Yassir Arafat, the head of the new Palestinian National Authority, had

"expressed joy" over reports that Jews were being killed in suicide attacks. Such operations have killed 50 Jews since October.

The burly reserve general, still regarded as a potential saviour by many blue-collar workers, outlined a security plan that is likely to cause unease among Western governments anxious to maintain the peace accord signed in Washington 17 months ago. He emphasised that the Israeli Government would have to seize back the right to "hot pursuit" in areas under Palestinian self-rule and to pre-emptive action, which he said had been surrendered by Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Prime Minister.

"I am not going to give a lesson in anti-terror warfare," said Mr Sharon, 66, a consistent opponent of the peace deal. "But you can take it for granted that there is a possibility to bring this terror to an end, or to reduce it to such a degree that life could be normal again. We are paying the price for the past seven years, when the steps which should have been taken were ignored."

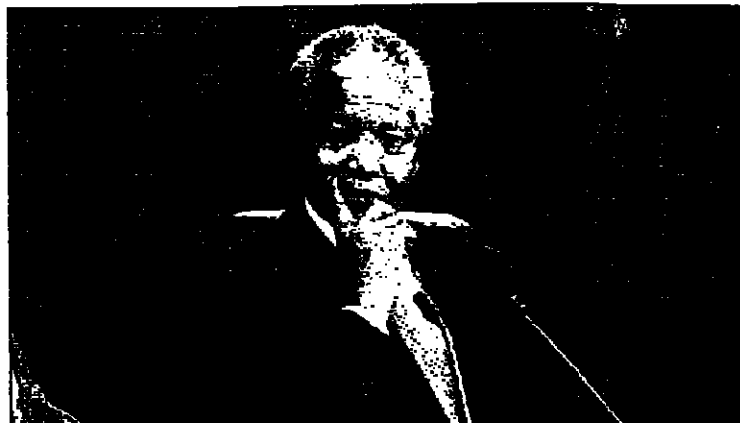
Mr Sharon said he was reconsidering his challenge to divide the Right, which he made last May when he declared his candidature for the post of Prime Minister, which will be elected directly for the first time next year. "It is too early to say whether I will be standing,"

he said, sparking speculation that he has done a deal with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader, which will grant him a top post in any right-wing administration. Mr Netanyahu is 22 years younger than Mr Sharon.

"Because of the weakness of the Government, the terrorists in Gaza have been allowed to feel victorious," Mr Sharon said, referring to recent television pictures that have shocked the Jewish public. "If the heads of Hamas are allowed to meet openly, dancing on the Israeli flag, armed and with the leaders preaching to kill more Jews, that is exactly the right moment that somebody should come there. They should be shown that things like that are not done."

Mr Sharon said there should be a larger Israeli security sweep in Gaza and Jericho, in which house-to-house searches for arms would be mounted and "wanted terrorists" taken back to Israel for trial. "Mr Arafat should be asked to join in. If he does not wish to, his forces should be confined to barracks while the operation is in progress."

Asked if he was concerned that such action would destroy the Israeli-PLO accord, Mr Sharon said: "This agreement is supposed to provide security, but if instead it brings bloodshed and many more casualties, who needs this peace?"



President Mandela watches as South Africa's most powerful court begins business. It is to debate the death penalty today

## Mandela wins an apology from his wife

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN  
IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA has sent a second letter to President Mandela, her estranged husband, containing a full apology for appearing to criticise his Government. Mr Mandela had rejected an earlier letter as inadequate.

Mrs Mandela, a deputy minister, said in her second letter: "I would like to apologise most sincerely for the impression the speech caused that I sought to condemn the Government. If such criticism ... were intended, I could not have excluded myself ..."

Mrs Mandela accused the Government of failing to redress the inequities of apartheid when she spoke last week at the Soweto funeral of a black police warrant officer shot by white colleagues.

The President's office, announcing that Mr Mandela had accepted the apology, said that he "views in a serious light any acts of commission or omission, on the part of government officials, which convey an image of disregard or disrespect for the policies and decisions of the Government. In accordance with the fundamental principle of Cabinet collective responsibility, should this happen, now and in the future, the President shall not hesitate to act firmly against any transgressors".

Bowing to her husband's anger, Mrs Mandela said in her letter that "I would also like to reaffirm my commitment to the concept and practice of collective responsibility ... and, on this basis, am prepared to serve the Government loyally ... I sincerely regret any embarrassment that the speech might have caused the President and the Government as a whole and therefore accept this censure which the delivery of the speech at the funeral occasioned."

Her first letter to the president merely said it had not been her intention to insult or embarrass President Mandela or the Government.

Although this second letter closes the argument over her speech, Mrs Mandela is still beset by controversy. The resignation of 11 executive members of the African National Congress Women's League in protest at her dictatorial attitude as president has still to be resolved. Other accusations of her using her ministerial position to advance the career of her daughter Zinzi as a concert promoter, or the questions surrounding the disappearance of 500,000 rands presented by Benazir Bhutto on behalf of the Pakistan Government at a Women's League function are also still outstanding.

Mr Mandela has long been forgiving of his wife's behaviour, but he has now drawn a line which all ministers in his government must be careful not to overstep.

Leading article, page 17

## New court for life and death

BY MICHAEL HAMLYN

PRESIDENT MANDELA yesterday officially inaugurated South Africa's first constitutional court, the most powerful court in the land, able to overrule parliament or any court or official contravening the Bill of Fundamental Rights contained in the interim constitution.

With its opening, the country has taken a big step away from Westminster-style democracy to a state in which the constitution is the highest law. A new constitution is being written by the Constitutional Assembly in Cape Town, but it too may not contravene the more than 30 binding principles in the present version. The final constitution will be judged by the new court.

With a touch of drama, President Mandela recalled: "The last time I was in court was to hear whether I was going to be sentenced to death." Judge Arthur Chaskalson, the president of the new court, was a defence counsel for Mr Mandela and his co-defendants then at the so-called Rivonia trial in which they were all found guilty and jailed for life.

The court will begin its work today when it debates a claim that the death penalty is unconstitutional since the Bill of Fundamental Rights proclaims a right to life.

Mr Mandela, declaring that he spoke this time "on behalf of the people of South Africa", urged the 12 justices, two of them women, four of them black: "We expect you to be creative and independent, not another rubber stamp."

## Unrest marks first anniversary of Hebron massacre

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ONE Palestinian was shot dead and seven others wounded yesterday by Israeli troops during widespread unrest in the occupied West Bank to mark the first anniversary of the Islamic calendar of the massacre in the Hebron mosque of 29 Arabs by Baruch Goldstein, the Jewish settler.

A general strike was declared in Hebron and other Arab cities, and in violent scenes reminiscent of the intifada Palestinian youths rioted against the unusually heavy Israeli security presence. A red alert was also declared throughout Israel proper, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, in anticipation of more revenge attacks by Islamic suicide bombers.

Left-wing Israeli politicians expressed outrage at plans by supporters of Goldstein to hold a memorial service tomorrow at his grave in the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba overlooking Hebron. In the year since his death, it has become a place of national pilgrimage for members of the Israeli far right. Some visitors place their palms on Goldstein's headstone and others stop to light a candle. Chairs are on hand for the many worshippers, and prayers are said twice daily.

"People come to the grave seeking to be healed because they know he was a holy man

who gave up his life for others," said one visitor to the site yesterday. "He was simply a saint, really like an angel," said a woman. "When he was killed, it was a terrible loss to the Jewish people."

As posters advertising the service were stuck on walls in Hebron, Aharon Friedberg, a member of the elected council of the settlement which is home to 6,000 Jews, said: "There will be a gathering at his grave. We will chant psalms and hold a study session and a memorial. Friends and public officials will reminisce about Dr Baruch Goldstein — may his memory be blessed." Mr Friedberg said he was preparing a commemorative album about Goldstein, who was born in New York, focusing on his "good deeds" as a doctor.

Since the massacre, the Israeli Army has turned the city into a fortress and instituted new security measures at the Cave of the Patriarchs, built over the graves of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac, where the shooting took place on February 25 last year.

Awani Natche, a Hebron resident who lost two cousins in the massacre, said Arabs had been made to pay a heavy price for the atrocity. "I do not feel as though I am living in a land of peace, but in a huge jail."

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Today's styles owe much to the legendary icons of yesteryear, whose quirky dress-sense set the pace of fashion

# Trendsetters for a generation



Fashion  
IAIN R. WEBB

As fashion goes retro in a big way — scouring the Thirties, Forties and Fifties for its inspiration — it seems timely to take a closer look at the stylish women who, during their lifetimes and beyond, have been as influential as any designer. This season in particular, designers are referring to yesteryear for their muses.

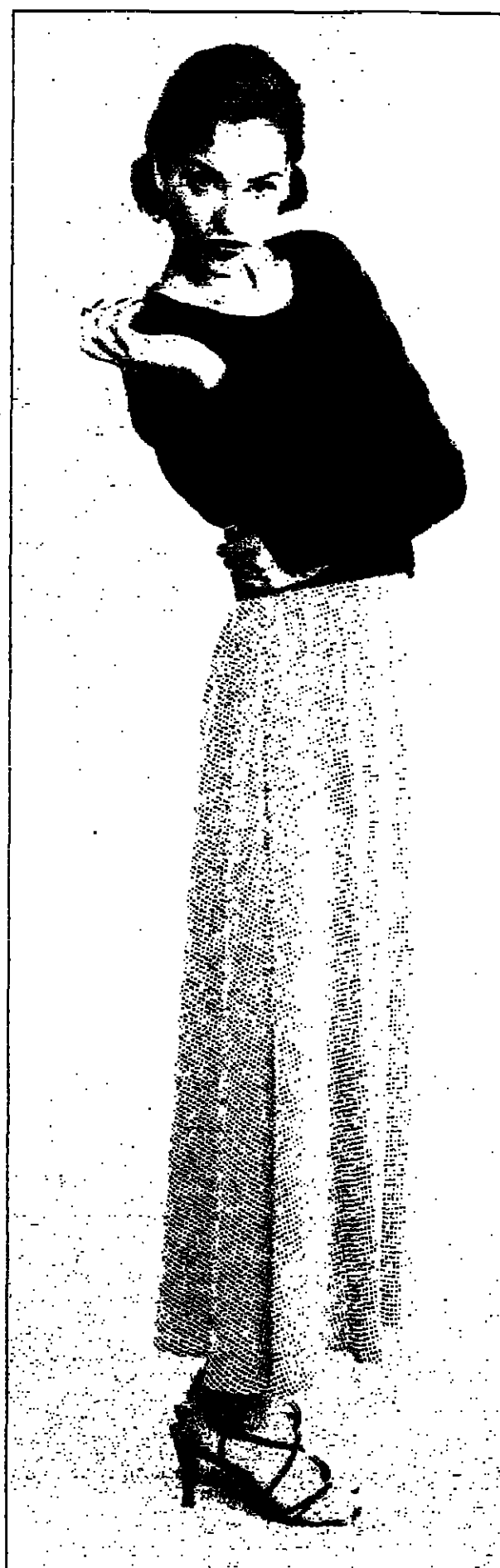
A new book, *The Power of Style*, looks at some of these celebrated style icons of the 20th century — the women who, by dressing in their own way, have seemingly set fashion's pace. These are the women who started trends, their chic idiosyncrasies copied by women the world over.

Slim Keith, a Hollywood hostess and the wife of the film director Howard Hawks, dismissed the lavish get-ups of the movie stars she socialised with. Instead, Keith dressed in an unassuming, understated way, which has since become the backbone for American



MILICENT ROGERS

(above/right) Sweater, £269, Caroline Charles, 170 New Bond Street, W1. Ballgown skirt, £615, Belville Sassoon. Loran Mullany, 18 Cufford Gardens, SW3. Rose-print skirt, £60, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1. Scarf, from £3.99, Tie Rack. Pearls, at neck and wrist, £28, brooch, £42, cuffs from £128, earrings, £198, Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3.



fashion — her clean, uncomplicated look is still being reinterpreted by designers such as Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein.

Equally elegant was Daisy Fellowes, a socialite who became the toast of Parisian society in the Thirties. She was drawn by Jean Cocteau and photographed by Cecil Beaton. She wore jewels with a swiftness, but went to great lengths to maintain a restrained elegance, having emeralds and rubies ground down to look like plastic beads.

Diametrically opposed to Keith and Fellowes is the eclectic wit of Millicent Rogers, the quintessential American hostess. Rogers was dressed by the leading couturiers — Schiaparelli, Mainbocher, Valentino and Charles James — but often altered their designs to suit her own whims. As she travelled the world she adopted the local costumes, wearing dirndls in Austria, Navajo jewellery in New Mexico. She mixed the looks with gay abandon.

Jacqueline Kennedy's taste for ensemble dressing (the little dress and jacket) has been copied everywhere, and is the mainstay for this summer's working wardrobe. Her almost carefree grace worked as well on a beach in St Tropez as it did at the grandest White House dinner. There are few women who can claim to have a style of sunglasses named after them, yet everyone knows what a pair of Jackie O sunglasses look like.

By doing little more than thinking beyond the boundaries of dress-codes and trends, they inadvertently set themselves up as arbiters of taste. Their often quirky sense of style has laid the foundations for fashion designers to plunder at whim ever since.

● *The Power of Style* is published by Aurum on February 23, price £18.95.



DAISY FELLOWES

(above/right) Dress, £372, Caroline Charles as above. Sandals, £135, Russell & Bromley. Boas, £19.50, silk flowers, John Lewis, branches nationwide. Cuffs, £138 each, Butler & Wilson. Photographs: MARTYN THOMPSON. Make-up: Micki Gardner. Hair: Gordon Pindar.



SLIM KEITH (above/top) Sweater, from a selection, Studio by Jean Muir, Jaeger, 200 Regent Street, W1. Skirt, £79, Jigsaw, 91-95 Fulham Road, SW3 (inquiries 0181-878 8443). Black suede belt, £36, Otto Glanz, Fenwicks, New Bond Street, W1. Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Black strappy sandals, £189, Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1.



JACKIE O

(above/above left) Slip-over, £60, Caroline Charles, as above. Stretch Jeans, £145, Betty Jackson, 311 Brompton Road, SW3. Sunglasses, £89, Cutler & Gross, 16 Knightsbridge Green, SW1. Rucksack, from £169, Prada, Isletan, 59-60 Piccadilly, Sandals, £39.95, Carvela, Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1, and department stores nationwide.

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● JEWELLER Dinny Hall's pretty workings in silver and gold will soon be available at a fraction of the cost. Created for Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 and House of Fraser stores, the Dinny Hall Mark collection is based on her main line, which takes much of its inspiration from her travels in the east. It will include favourite classics, such as swirly dangling earrings and drop pendants. Available from the end of March, prices start from £15.

● LONDON'S Fashion Week is just three weeks away, and finance fever is running high. Graduates of the New Generation, which is funded by Marks & Spencer, are seeking sponsorship to support their collec-

tion presentations, while the Department of Trade and Industry last week pledged £50,000 to the week's events.

● HARVEY NICHOLS has added to its seasonal brochure with a magazine aimed at fashion/style-oriented men and women. It aims to inform shoppers of what's new in-store and events taking place. Crammed full of fresh spring/summer looks, fashion comment, designer profiles and new lines on the beauty, food and wine front, it has something for everyone. Available from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1, priced £2.

RACHEL COLLINS



## Alan Coren



■ After all the hot air, a scheme to reduce the feelgood factor by 17½%

Strive as I might, and always do, to be as unconvoluted as possible, there really is no way of approaching this morning's topic without going via Benjamin Franklin. He is enmeshed in its every ravelled thread. His ghost perches on my shoulder as I tap, now pointing this way, now that. And though my prime commitment remains, of course, to you, there is no question but that, today, this one is also for him.

I have always loved old Ben. Who that has any relish for life's hilarious heterogeneity could fail to love a man who invented the glass harmonica, sought to identify the presence of electricity in lightning by standing in a thunderstorm with a kite, and lurched around in two pairs of spectacles, one on the bridge of his nose, one on the tip, until crying to hell with this, and inventing bifocals? It would be hard to think of anyone in whom dotiness and wisdom combined to more productive effect, and it is thus altogether fit and proper that he should be riding shotgun for me as I face down Her Majesty's Customs and Excise on the burning issue of hot-air ballooning.

Especially as it was he who made the two keynote remarks on the subject: the first in 1783, when, posted to Europe as his fledgling nation's plenipotentiary to negotiate the Treaty of Paris, he witnessed the Montgolfier brothers whizzing over that city in the first journey made by men hanging on to a big bag, and murmured: "Whether science has embarked upon a fresh source of human joy or of human folly, I dare not speculate," and the second six years later, in his letter to M. Leroy, when he wrote: "In this world, nothing is certain but death and taxes."

Which finally brings me, as readers registered for VAT may already have twigged, to the new edition of VAT Notes, that merry little quarterly which keeps us abreast of all those swingeing innovations which give the lie to Treasury claims that taxes are not going up. As a publication, mind, it is a mixed curse, in that it does reveal all manner of wondrous items I would otherwise never have known existed, eg chiming non-ferrous ornamental pinnacles, or showerproof bridal accessories (except hand-wound rayon horseshoes), or all the millions of other arcane gew-gaws which have been truffled out by sniffer dogs trained to catch the whiff of anything not yet carrying 17.5%, and run panting with it to the Chancellor's feet in the hope of a pat and a chocolate button.

And look what they have found now! From 1 April 1995, services relating to entertainment or recreational activities that include passenger transport will become wholly standard-rated. This includes 'fun' or historic rides, specialist train rides and other forms of transport within theme parks, and hot-air balloon rides. I particularly savour the inverted commas they have placed around 'fun'. Can we not see the meeting at Dracula House following the discovery of what they had hitherto been missing 17.5% off? 'Fun, eh, we'll give 'em bloody fun!'

Was there ever a more horrible levying? Did any impost ever bespeak a flintier heart? Could any piece of legislation distance more irretrievably the feelgood factor its legislators are so desperately seeking?

I rang the VAT Führerbunker. Was there now VAT on dodgem cars? Yes. Ferris wheels? Of course. Big dippers? No question. Ghost trains? Definitely. "While public transport in its usual sense will continue to be zero-rated," I was told, "public transport where the purpose is entertainment will now carry VAT." I cannot say whether the italics are theirs or mine, but it does not matter. What matters is that this is not merely a levy on fun, it is a levy on the fun of those whose fun is likewise to be circumscribed by it, for the diversions thus hammered are unquestionably those of the nation's harder-up.

Is the Treasury so strapped for cash that hot-air balloon rides must be pressed into fiscal service? How much will they bring in, do you imagine? And since you ask, I have not turned to the ghost on my shoulder to ask him whether he has now, after two centuries, reached a conclusion as to whether balloons are a source of human joy or of human folly. I dare not. He is probably furious at me for having so incautiously mentioned glass harmonicas. They are just the sort of item the VAT people might up till now have missed.



SHOCK-JACQUES

## Ban airborne terrorism

Dresden showed that bombing from the air is inhuman. We should not tolerate it

One good thing that might come out of the Dresden commemoration is the abolition of the bomb that destroyed it. We already have treaties banning the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons and of gas. We go to diplomatic lengths to restrict access to nuclear weapons. There is an international campaign to ban the anti-personnel mine, which continues to kill 150 people around the world each week. But the obscenity of the free-fall bomb remains unchecked.

What those too young to remember have found most shocking about Dresden is that the intention was to kill civilians. There was no pretence about this. The word "terrorism" occurs again and again in the documentation, both before and after the event, not least in the notes by Churchill and the American commanders who actually authorised it, and were to create a firestorm. As in the ghoulish phosphorus raids on other cities, the intention was to burn, suffocate and fry civilians.

For reasons that wholly elude me, bombs from the sky enjoy a moral protection not possessed by a soldier on the ground, despite the far greater danger experienced by the latter. If the Russian army had arrived at the gates of Dresden before Harris's bombers did their work, and had walked through the undefended city skewering babies, torching churches packed with cowering women, dynamiting hospitals and shooting anything that moved to a total of 25,000 human beings, we would have declared it a war crime. The images of American ground troops in Vietnam killing and torching villages moved a nation to disgust. In Cambodia, likewise, the world was appalled at the wholesale murders of the Khmer Rouge. A similar disgust is prompted by the atrocities of "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavia. "Our boys" would do no such thing.

Yes the bomber is excused. He is protected by jargon: "take out", "de-house", "render inoperable". He does not kill civilians. A phenomenon known as "collateral damage" does that. The bomber is the most costly and inaccurate weapon known to warfare. Despite promising to avoid civilian deaths in the Gulf War killed hundreds simply by missing their targets. The war was won by soldiers in the desert, not by bombers over the streets of Baghdad. Bomb damage,

as Speer showed, can quickly be repaired. Bombs win no territory. They are pure terrorism, and depend on the readiness of the bombed to be terrorised. Rarely do they oblige.

Yet from Bomber Harris, through the computerised sorties over Vietnam to Iraq, Bosnia and now Chechnya, the message from the air force has always been the same: the bomber can win the war. He can "take the enemy back to the stone age". February 14 is the anniversary not only of Dresden, but of the 1942 Air Staff directive that made Dresden possible. It focused bombing not on military targets, but "on the morale of the enemy civilian population". This was, as John Keegan says in his *History of Warfare*, "a revolutionary development in war-making, and a few brave individuals rightly denounced it as a moral regression". But it gave air forces what they most wanted: a war role distinct from that of mere support for the other two services.

Harris believed, as America's General Curtis Le May did later, that bombers could win wars single-handedly, without any soldier on the ground. A depopulated wasteland must sue for peace. Harris's obsession with killing civilians emerges from his writings as maniacal. He disregarded the pleas of Allied commanders for bombing of the retreating German supply lines. He left off deposits untouched, and as a result permitted the German Ardennes offensive. Speer, in his memoirs, was incredulous at this waste of bomber resources. History shows that Harris's insubordination prolonged rather than shortened the war. He was out of control. He was, as Churchill sensed, a fanatic.

An entire theory of conflict — that aerial bombardment of civilians can alter political decisions by war commanders — was put to the test in the cause of inter-service rivalry. No attempt was made to prove its validity. The British, after all, boasted the opposite of what Harris believed. They said the Blitz stiffened resistance to Hitler. The flattening

of 60 per cent of Japanese cities by the American Air Force did not induce the Japanese Emperor to surrender (though I admit the atom bomb may be an exception to my rule). The devastation of German cities did not produce an uprising against Hitler or noticeably affect the morale of his fighting troops on the ground. They fought, and were equipped, to the end.

Yet the 1942 directive retains its potency. The air force "must be given a role", other than merely as logistical support. They bombed Hanoi and the Vietnam supply trains. They bombed Gaddafi. At vast expense, the British sent RAF Vulcans to bomb the Falklands airfields, although they knew that any bombs lucky enough to fall on the runway would leave craters that could be repaired overnight. When the Americans declared hostilities against Iraq, the head of the USAF,

Michael Dugan, let it be known that "US military air power, including massive bombing campaigns against Baghdad that specifically targets Saddam Hussein, is the only effective option to force Iraqi forces from Kuwait". It was a rerun of Harris's 1942 directive, and just as daft. At least Dugan was sacked. But his bombing policy was pursued — and left Saddam in power.

When the Russians went into Grozny before Christmas, I wondered how long the commanders would keep the air force at bay. The answer was not long. In they went, dropping free-fall ball-bearing bombs across the city centre. Since soldiers tend to be in well-protected bunkers, the chief casualties from such attacks were bound to be civilians. Children riddled with steel balls poured into hospitals. Had Russian soldiers shot these children by hand, the world would have reacted with total outrage. But the bomber's trade union gives him a licence. He is shooting from the distance of his plane. He cannot be

held responsible for what he kills. The nadir of the bombing fixation has been Bosnia. Any violation of any ceasefire produces a spasmodic tick in Washington: "Bomb them." Nobody cares whom. The bomber has a symbiotic relationship with the politician. He is the emblem of power projection: a plane roaring from an aircraft carrier, a plume of smoke, a thumbs-up on return. Neither pilot nor politician need see the mangled bodies. The power is in the afterburner and the bang. I am sure General Rose joined a long and noble list of ground commanders who found himself saying each night, God preserve me on the morrow from the air force.

I suppose it will be thus as long as war is a contest first between three services and only then with the enemy. To any layman, the air force should be part of a ground forces command structure. Limited wars are about the control of territory. Activity demands tactical precision, which except in the most limited theatres bombers cannot give. The advent of (reasonably) smart weapons is anyway rendering the manned bomber obsolete. The trouble is that the RAF has 150 officers of the rank of air commodore and above and 400 group captains for just 40 combat groups. Small wonder they spend their time decorating Gloucestershire mansions (though it is outrageous they should be summarily sacked for doing so).

All I would suggest is that air forces be expected to adhere to the same standards of humane warfare as the other services. Britain is tardy about any international agreement on inhuman weapons. I am sceptical of the value of most UN conventions, but cannot see why Britain should refuse to sign the 1933 Convention banning weapons aimed primarily at civilians. The Americans, French and Dutch have banned the export of delayed-action anti-personnel landmines in response to the horrific evidence of the casualties these weapons inflict. Apparently British arms manufacturers would indeed like to make these weapons and export them, and ministers dare not appear squeamish.

I would put napalm, phosphorus, ball-bearing and splinter bombs in the same category. These are not rifles, they are blunderbusses. They do not win wars. They are mere airborne terrorism. They kill people in the most agonising way imaginable. No civilised air force should be equipped with them. They are the unacceptable legacy of Dresden.

## Simon Jenkins

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## Classless Eton?

A RICH tradition of ruling gentry has come to an end. The Eton College magazine, *The Chronicle*, states unequivocally that there are unlikely to be any more Etonian Prime Ministers.

The school founded by Henry VI has produced more Prime Ministers than any other. Nineteen of the country's leaders spent their formative years at the establishment. The last Prime Minister was Alec Douglas-Home and the most recent contender was Douglas Hurd, who fought for the Tory leadership in 1990.

But this term's *Chronicle* suggests that John Major's classless society is taking root. The magazine's editor, Matthew Wilson, in an article headed *Mundus Contra Etonienses* (The World Against Etonians), claims that Hurd was "a beneficiary of the class system" who, during the leadership contest, "felt obliged effectively to apologise for having been at Eton".

"Can there ever be another Etonian Prime Minister?" he writes. "If public opinion continues to see Eton, beyond all other public schools, as a system of elitism and social injustice, no politician will dare to present the

electorate with an Etonian as a potential Prime Minister. So much for those who insist that an Etonian education is an untold advantage in life."

Lord Charteris, former Provost of Eton, suggests the Etonian Prime Minister will rise again. "I absolutely don't agree. I'm in favour of elitism but the elite must accept their responsibilities."

Jonathan Dimbleby's biography of the Prince of Wales has ended up in literary limbo land. A

BELIEVE ME, IT'S THE HOTTEST OF THEM ALL



copy spotted in a Sevenoaks bookshop was in the "soiled bargain" basket, marked from the princely sum of £20 to £7.99.

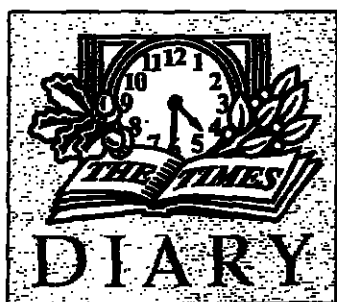
## Stage fright

TECHNICAL hiccups have hit Cameron Mackintosh's production of *Miss Saigon* in America. A helicopter built to land on stage in the Seattle production, which opens this spring, crashed on its first flight.

All productions feature a helicopter, but the Seattle version was still being tested in Los Angeles the other day when a hydraulic ram failed. "It went straight down," says a spokesman. "It was a write-off, a hell of a mess, but fortunately no one was hurt." Technicians are working round the clock to reconstruct the helicopter but *Miss Saigon* is not the only show affected. "It landed plum on the stage set for *Beauty and the Beast*. That was damaged as well, unfortunately."

## Danger aria

THEY are falling like flies at the Royal Opera House in London, where an uncommonly virulent flu bug is doing the rounds. It was only the other night that just before curtain up, the Swedish mezzo



soprano Anne Sofie von Otter cried off from *Der Rosenkavalier* because of a cold.

On Monday night, the opera house hit the panic button again. It was the turn of their star Romanian soprano, Angela Gheorghiu, to fall ill moments before she was due to play *Mimi* in *La Bohème*. "Deborah Riedel, who has played the role here before, happened to be in town by chance. We found her and she stepped into the breach," says a spokeswoman. "But flu is raging here."

## Fond farewell

THE REMOVAL vans trundled up to the doors of Barnwell Manor yesterday as the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alice finally decamped from their Northamptonshire estate. There had been not a dry eye in sight on

Monday when, after 50 years there, Princess Alice bade her farewells.

The move was announced last month after the Gloucesters decided that Barnwell was too expensive to keep up. Princess Alice, 93, has gone to stay with friends in Scotland to avoid the upheaval of the move to Kensington Palace. She threw a drinks party last Friday for about 50 locals. "It was a very nice way of saying goodbye," says one. "We were all sad to see her go. I'm sure she was too, but she doesn't show it like the younger ones do."

## Snap decision

THERE were tense moments at the London offices of the gushing glossy *Hello!* last week. The magazine nearly failed to come out after a courier bearing vital pages on their way to the printer was knocked off his motorbike.

He was heading for Heathrow to put paste-ups on a Madrid-bound plane when the accident happened. He was unhurt but vital pictures of the Princess of Wales for the week's issue were scattered over the motorway.

"It was early morning by the time everything was recovered," explained a weary celebrity interviewer at the magazine. "And we still had to get it all to the printers



Tanya Bryer: hardly a crumb

in Madrid. *Hello!* chartered a plane of its own for the royal snaps — and the magazine hit the streets on schedule.

West End actresses turned out late on Monday night at P.J.'s restaurant in Covent Garden to model jewellery for an AIDS charity. Waiting to interview them was the BBC's Tanya Bryer, who paid heavily for her interest. "I asked if they were hungry after their shows, and offered them some of my food," she explained. "Yes," they replied — and wolfed the lot.

## Your disobedient servants

### Charles Wardle on how Whitehall undermines immigration policy

I am encouraged to learn that the passive verb to be Wardled has entered the Home Office lexicon. Civil servants need to get to the nub of a problem and less concerned with arcane ways than with effective action and results. The Civil Service is full of Rolls-Royce minds, but despite market testing, agency status, privatisation and the civil service White Paper, all the initiatives to modernise the processes of Whitehall seem to have bypassed the higher echelons of the Home Office. The great adventure there is policy, with precious little regard for the practical results that the public expects.

Although the Home Office is responsible for spending more than £6,000 million a year of taxpayers' money the gulf between its operating methods and those of the private sector is vast. The integrity, loyalty and commitment of most officials is beyond question, but few have any management qualifications or experience. Hardly any of them have ever been responsible for next month's payroll.

Any experienced executive who turns to politics and becomes a minister would quickly see what I mean. When an MP complained that a company in her constituency had not been given a chance to quote for a Home Office order, I delivered. The executive officer who approved the purchase had a personal discretionary spending limit of £10,000 but the single order was for £299,700. There had been no other tenders, because apparently the executive officer had decided he knew what he wanted.

Take, for example, the celebrated research report on refugees. Officials at the immigration and nationality department had challenged Home Office researchers before the report came to my attention, claiming it was flawed by a fundamental confusion between Geneva Convention refugees and others with what is known in Home Office jargon as "exceptional leave" to remain in the UK. I asked about the methodology. A leaflet had been distributed to a list of refugee and immigration organisations indicating that a combined team of researchers from the Home Office and a university was carrying out the study.

In fact, in the research sample of 269 respondents, the main researchers had completed just 60 of the interviews themselves. The other 209 were subcontracted to foreign-language interviewers, on whom no records of qualifications had been kept. There was no available evidence of the format of their half-day training programme at the Home Office. And after sitting in on the first of their interviews, the main researchers left them to do the rest on their own. These foreign language interviewers had been recruited from the very list of immigration organisations that had supplied the respondents.

Potential respondents had been told that information they provided would be confidential. But it came as a surprise to me that all the questionnaires had been destroyed before the report was submitted to ministers. One result of this was that there was no firm evidence of the geographical spread of the research, and nothing to verify that the respondents were refugees at all. Nor was there any evidence that might dispel the sceptical view that groups on the list of immigration organisations had simply fielded respondents and foreign-language interviewers to supply predetermined answers.

While immigration officials applauded my inquiries, the reaction of Home Office researchers to the impermissibility of such an intrusive minister was predictably hostile. Meanwhile the taxpayer footed the bill of over £50,000.

Concerned that the junior officials in my private office had to struggle to work during an Underground strike, I explored the Home Office car park to find spaces so they might drive to Queen Anne's Gate. Senior civil servants' cars filled the first floor, but the second floor — with parking spaces of an aggregate commercial value of at least £250,000 a year — was filled with thousands of new chairs, desks and cabinets, purchased and dumped there, some for more than a year.

The approach to expenditure budgets, management planning and control and training still lags behind modern management. It is hardly surprising either that the prison service agency and the criminal justice division have experienced grave difficulties in putting policies into practice. But worse management problems lie ahead if the European Commission ever prevails with its infringement proceedings against Britain's frontier controls. If the commission were successful, there would need to be a massive redeployment of immigration officers from ports of entry to internal enforcement duties. This would mean greater police involvement, as on the Continent. Coming so soon after the travails of the Police Bill and the review of core police functions, this would need the most careful management planning — or are we to assume that the problems will never arise?

It is management's job to plan ahead. The best safeguard for our frontiers is to make very sure at next year's inter-governmental conference that we have a solid opt-out from Article 7A of the Treaty of Rome.

The author resigned this week as Under-Secretary for Industry and Energy.

P.H.S

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## THE OTHER MANDELA

'The Mother of the Nation' has no place in government

That Winnie Mandela continues to find a place in South Africa's Government of national unity is as striking as the series of misdemeanours and crime of which she is the unrepentant author. After a week of turbulent recrimination, during which — for the first time — she felt the formal wrath of her estranged husband, Mrs Mandela apologised to the President for having said that his Government was "pandering to the whites". Yet the "Mother of the Nation" — as she is still referred to in radical circles of the African National Congress (ANC) — was scarcely a model of contrition.

The apology was squeezed from her in grudging instalments by Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President, who is thought to have made it clear that Mrs Mandela would have to resign if she failed to offer the President an appropriate form of words. Mr Mandela was right, of course, to demand an apology. Not only was Mrs Mandela's talk of "pandering" inflammatory, it was also in breach of every rule of Cabinet propriety. She is, after all, Deputy Minister for Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in the very Government which was the butt of her indefensible criticism. Mr Mandela was wrong, however, in treating the matter as open to resolution by mere apology. The President should have dismissed her from his Cabinet immediately.

Mrs Mandela's appointment to the Government of national unity in May last year was greeted with dread by many in South Africa and abroad. Not only did she have a criminal record — she was convicted of assault and kidnapping in the ignoble case of 14-year-old Stompie Seake — but she was also a strident champion of the politics

of racial confrontation. Mrs Mandela, it was apparent to many, personified the political culture from which the new South Africa was striving to unbind itself.

His estranged wife forced on Mr Mandela a delicate political and personal balancing act for which he had little enthusiasm. As a strategic concession to ANC radicals, thought to have been the idea of Mr Mbeki, Mrs Mandela was inducted into government in a junior post under an Inkatha minister. It was calculated that her voice — as well as that of the militant cohorts — would be better constrained, and rendered more emollient, within the political system.

Events have shown that such calculations were mistaken. Mrs Mandela's ill-conceived diatribe against the Government is not the only matter on which she has given the President cause for her dismissal. Her autocratic style — so destructive in the days when she ran Soweto in the manner of a fiefdom — has provoked a rash of resignations from the ANC Women's League, of which she is President. Those who have resigned include Adelaide Tambo, widow of the late Oliver Tambo, and Nkosazana Zuma, the Health Minister.

After the Boesak affair, Mr Mandela will find it increasingly difficult to ignore the evidence against Mrs Mandela — which mounts by the day — of financial impropriety, abuse of power and nepotism. By sacking her from his Cabinet, he would be likely to anger party radicals. He would be less likely, however, to provoke open insurrection. Mr Mandela's strategists may still counsel him to retain his errand wife: he must overrule them. Political strategy has here become the foe of political wisdom.

## RESPONSIBLE DOCTRINES

Every crime is the result of a moral decision to commit it

Today's report by the Employment Policy Institute on the alleged links between crime and unemployment revives a familiar argument in the law and order debate. Dr John Wells, a Cambridge University economist, claims that crime levels can be linked to the state of the labour market. Though he distances himself from the perilous argument that unemployment justifies crime, Dr Wells suggests that indifference to the plight of the jobless "can provide a solvent to the normal moral constraints on crime".

The Home Office would disagree with his central claim. Its latest report on the subject, published in December, concluded that there was no "consistent significant correlation between unemployment and recorded crime". The methodological arguments about which statistics should be used, and how, will probably never be resolved to the satisfaction of all. The debate on this alleged correlation will continue to rage. The more interesting question is what the debate itself says about the Western view of morality.

In the last century and a half, a series of intellectual movements have eroded the Judeo-Christian assumption that the individual is morally responsible for his actions. Darwinism made man the product of evolution and animal impulse; Freudianism made him the helpless puppet of suppressed sexual feelings; and Marxism made him the victim of social and economic forces. The behaviourist school of psychologists, led by B. F. Skinner, has argued that individual actions are determined by context and the countless stimuli to which human beings are subject.

The core belief that individuals must be held accountable for what they do wrong has survived this philosophical onslaught. But it

has become intellectually respectable — as well as politically correct — to say that external factors play a very considerable part in explaining anti-social or evil behaviour. The perverse effect has been to turn wrongdoers into apparent victims. Hence, for example, Colin Ferguson, who shot 25 people on a New York train in 1993, was said to be expressing "black rage". This week, a group of scientists will meet in London to discuss the increasingly popular argument that criminal behaviour has genetic roots. Too often it is argued that criminals are prey to impulses over which they have no control or are subject to forms of oppression which compel them to break the law.

Such arguments are meant to defend the powerless. In fact, their effect is the opposite. The vast majority of black people, for instance, would be horrified by the idea that their ethnicity predisposes them to murder, violence, or excuses it. To claim that one social group is more likely than another to commit crime or act immorally is a grotesque form of condemnation, perhaps the most sweeping stigma a society can apply.

It may be true that a desperately poor man is more likely to steal than a millionaire. But it is quite different to suggest that crime is predetermined and that the link between material adversity and criminality is a causal one. To allege such a link is enormously insulting to unemployed people who lead respectable lives in difficult circumstances. It also confuses the pressures to which people are subject with their moral response to such pressures. Poverty and disaffection may tempt individuals to commit crimes. But it is they themselves who yield to such temptations. The true causes of crime are criminals.

## YOU MADE IT, OSCAR, YOU DID

If you want his memorial, listen to the laughter and tears

The prince of paradox was needed in person to describe the unveiling of his memorial window in Westminster Abbey yesterday. That master of the epigram with a corkscrew for its tail left apt inscriptions for his extraordinary career, for instance, "When people agree with me I always feel that I must be wrong." Or, "The truth is never pure and rarely simple." Wisely, the Dean decided to restrict the inscription to the plain names and dates of Oscar Wilde. Oscar's cumulative two-liners and inverted clichés already fill the quotation dictionaries and are continually recycled by lesser wits. They and his high camp aesthetic line are still imitated and have become immortal without having to be inscribed on Abbey glass.

But only Oscar's friendly irony could have adequately celebrated his admission to Poets' Corner a century to the day after the opening of both his witiest play and his fatal libel feud with Lord Queensberry. Oscar might have had something to remark about his nearest ghostly neighbours in the Abbey, Tennyson, Queen Victoria's favourite laureate, and Browning, the cerebral poet of heterosexual love and passion. He would surely have been amused by the Home Office logic that he cannot be posthumously pardoned because the crime of which he was convicted is no longer illegal.

The Irish outsider who was hounded to disgrace, prison, exile and an early grave by the hypocritical society he loved to tease might have been gratified by his rehabilitation in the heart of the Anglican Establishment. He would have enjoyed the eclecticism of the special interest groups riding his handwagon, from Irish nationalists to gay rights militants and the entire acting

profession. Even the Marquess of Queensberry, descendant of the prize-fighters' legislator who started Oscar's ruin with an ill-spent note accusing him of "posing as a Sodomite", has joined the Wilde society.

Artists need neither rehabilitation by Poets' Corner nor pardon by the Home Secretary. They live in their work. Of all people, Oscar was a self-conscious artist first and a fallible and imprudent mortal second. Continental Europeans have long recognised him as a great writer unappreciated by his countrymen, like Byron, for his wit, his un-British dedication to his art and his unconventional private life. The British came round to him because he made them laugh. Another Wildean paradox is that *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the most brilliant comedy in English, has become the most popular of all plays for the respectable bourgeoisie he loved to shock.

Now he is beyond the reach of all scandal. Oscar is a modern man more than a Victorian. His fur coat, green carnation and boast to the customs officer that he had only his genius to declare are in line with modern celebrity self-promotion. Oscar might have worn an ear-ring. His contemporaries persecuted him for degeneracy and weakness. But modern biographers recognise him as a brave man who protested against the vulgarity of his age, and was himself punished by moral vulgarity. Oscar said he was dying beyond his means. He lives on beyond the means or need of posthumous rehabilitation. A final paradox is that his audiences forgave Oscar for his genius long before Poets' Corner caught up with them. Oscar's sins were painted scarlet, but his jokes are still read.

## CO's support for jailed guardsmen

From Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. Spicer (ret'd)

Sir, As the former Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards, and therefore the commanding officer at the time of the incident in Belfast for which Guardsmen James Fisher and Mark Wright have just been convicted of murder (report, February 11), I am writing to make the following points:

Throughout the battalion's tour in Belfast we had been subjected to numerous attacks covering the full spectrum of terrorist operations — shootings, including the fatal shooting of one soldier, bombings and rocket attacks.

By far the most prevalent form of attack, and the most difficult to counter, was the Mark 15 grenade. This is a domestic coffee jar filled with Semtex and shrapnel. It is lethal and easy to conceal, and it is very difficult to prevent or capture the thrower.

By the date in question, September 4, 1992, there had been at least 20 of these attacks. That morning there was intelligence to suggest that the threat from "coffee jars" was higher than normal and that some of these devices were known to be in the New Lodge area.

This information was passed to troops deploying on a search operation. Fisher and Wright were part of this operation. Thus an attack on a patrol resulting in death or injury to soldiers or innocent bystanders was an ever-present danger. This information was made clear during the trial.

I am completely satisfied that neither of these young soldiers had anything other than the firmly held and honest belief, stated throughout their trial, that they were involved in a terrorist incident and therefore acted entirely in good faith, in accordance with the law, the rules of engagement and their military training, and that opening fire after several challenges was the correct course of action.

Knowing these two soldiers extremely well, and having interviewed them shortly after the incident and subsequently on numerous occasions, I have never doubted their story or believed it to be a fabrication designed to cover up a deliberate and premeditated murder. Their version of events has not changed during the two years it took this case to come to trial.

Of course, one could easily pick holes in their stories, but in my view there was enough consistency between the version of events as seen by the prosecution witnesses and that of the defence to provide the element of doubt required to acquit them of murder. In my view any suggestion that this was a deliberate murder, followed by a concerted story to cover up, is difficult to accept.

Whilst it is very sad that in this instance it appears that an innocent young man was killed by mistake, such incidents develop extremely quickly and the decision to shoot or not must be made by young soldiers in a split second. It is a tribute to the training and professionalism of the British Army that more incidents of this type have not occurred during the lengthy deployment of troops in Northern Ireland.

I applaud Lord Justice Kelly's request, in his judgment, for a review of the powers of sentencing available to judges in all murder cases. For a country to require its soldiers to be the most professional in the world (which they are), to deploy them fully armed on the streets of a hostile and dangerous city in the United Kingdom and then, when they use their training and judgment in good faith, leave them at the mercy of a legal system which does not provide for anything other than a mandatory life sentence on conviction is disgraceful.

Yours truly,  
T. S. SPICER,  
Cavalry and Guards Club,  
127 Piccadilly, W1.

## Treats in store

From Mrs Ronna Saunders

Sir, One must assume that Mr Steve Ward who suggests (letter, February 7) that the use of the term "store" for "shop" and "lines" for "queues" is a symptom of galloping Americanisation, is one of your younger readers.

Just over sixty years ago, this town had at least ten businesses defining themselves as "stores", including several nationally known ones, such as the Home and Colonial, Woolworth's and World's Stores. Every community worth its salt had its own village or general stores and, even in those days, we used to go "up to Town" to shop at the big departmental stores.

Having referred to our local street directory for 1933, I note that, as well as the more common tradesmen, such as grocers, butchers and bootmakers, there were bookbinders, staymakers, chair-caners, engravers and two art embroiderers who made vestments. These people carried on their crafts in workshops on their own premises, whereas those who kept stores sold the products of other hands. Perhaps that is where the difference lies, not across the Atlantic.

Yours faithfully,  
RONNA SAUNDERS,  
6 Argyll Street,  
Ryde, Isle of Wight,  
February 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Song and dance over the Coliseum

From Mr Dennis Stevenson and others

Sir, As the team responsible for the report on lyric theatre in London we write in response to Melvyn Bragg's splendid article, "Stop sniping at the Coliseum" (February 10). Mr Bragg seems to have chosen to misinterpret its arguments and ignore most of its research. There is, however, one important matter with which we must take issue immediately.

The Arts Council invited us as independent individuals to consider the provision of opera and dance in London and its possible future (including the proposed simultaneous closure of both major opera houses for refurbishment). At the outset we asked ourselves whether there were any hidden agendas at work and we can categorically state that there were none — on the Coliseum or any other institution. It is therefore false, insulting, and potentially damaging for Mr Bragg to hint that we were set up to undervalue and diminish English National Opera.

A careful reading of the report should have demonstrated to Mr Bragg that far from sniping at the Coliseum it broadly supports ENO's proposed developments in opera and dance. We admire and support the achievement of Dennis Marks, general director of the company, and acknowledge in the report that ENO's audience increased in 1994-95. Articles such as Mr Bragg's are potentially far more damaging to ENO's interests than anything we have said.

Yours sincerely,  
DENNIS STEVENSON  
(Chairman of the review team),  
GRAHAM DEVLIN  
(Director, Major Road Theatre Co.),  
GENISTA MCINTOSH  
(Executive Director,  
Royal National Theatre),  
STEPHEN PHILLIPS  
(Series editor, Meridian TV's *The Pier*),  
78-80 St John Street, EC1.

From the Secretary-General of the Arts Council of England

Sir, Melvyn Bragg makes a helpful contribution to the public consultation process about the provision of opera and dance in London. However, he has in some respects apparently been misinformed. For example, the report was commissioned by the Arts Council in July and completed in January, so in no sense was the process hurried.

## Coronary recovery

From Sheriff C. W. Palmer

Sir, I read with interest your article about Sir Peter Imbert's heart attack and his excellent recovery (Body and Mind, February 7). Having been through the same myself I agree with him that attitude, diet and exercise are the key to success.

I am 49 years of age, Sheriff of Tayside Central and Fife based at Dunfermline Sheriff Court. In 1991, while listening to the Bishop of Edinburgh preaching at my daughter's confirmation service at Fettes College, I suffered a major heart attack. I was taken to the Western General Hospital 250 yards away and pumped full of Streptokinase and TPA (both clot-busting drugs).

Twelve months later I keeled over again while on the Bench at Dunfermline Sheriff Court. I was driven by my wife with a police escort 120 miles to hospital in Edinburgh. Three months later I underwent a triple bypass operation. Within 12 weeks I was walking in the French Alps and riding with the Buccleuch hunt.

This May, I will cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. I suspect that I may be the first heart attack victim/coronary bypass patient to do so.

## NHS appointments

From the Minister for Health

Sir, You report (February 9) that "a senior member of an NHS trust" has submitted written evidence to the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life, claiming that the NHS appointments procedure is "highly idiosyncratic" and that "subjective judgment, personal whim and political patronage all play a part". What nonsense!

All NHS board members, executive and non-executive, are bound by our extremely rigorous code of conduct and code of accountability, issued in April 1994, and compliance with these codes is a condition of their appointment. We are confident that NHS boards benefit from the wide range of skills and experience non-executives have to offer.

However, we are rightly anxious to ensure that the system is as effective as it can be, and Mrs Bottomley has

## To the point

From Mrs Ruth Messina

Sir, "Gone missing" suggests an optimistic coming back, which is more to the point (Professor Lawrence's letter, February 14) than the false economy of the word "disappeared": that suggests a pessimistic gone for ever. Unless this is what you want — and then it is, surely, more economical to be "lost".

Yours faithfully,  
RUTH MESSINA,  
20 Cairn Avenue, Ealing, W5,  
February 14.

It is based on careful and detailed research covering audience data from 1971 to 1994, not merely two surveys in 1991 and 1993. The projected figure for ENO's audiences for 1996-97, given as 75 per cent of capacity, was confirmed by the ENO management only a few weeks before the report's publication, as was the number of future performances. Reports of this kind can only use the data to which they have access.

Mr Bragg asserts that the report does not "take on board the challenge of creating a dance theatre for London". The question of a dance house is discussed fully, drawing on a recently completed study by Crispin Raymond, commissioned by Dance UK. Mr Raymond recommends the creation of a dance house network rather than a dedicated space, a view supported by the report. It tackles in some detail how such a network might be established and identifies a central role for ENO in presenting large-scale dance.

It is important that the Arts Council addresses issues relating to future arts provision as openly and transparently as possible. The views expressed in the report are not Arts Council policy, and the council will not respond to any of the report's recommendations until it has heard the views of all those being consulted.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY ALLEN,  
Secretary-General,  
The Arts Council of England,  
14 Great Peter Street, SW1,  
February 10.

From Lady Boston of Faversham

Sir, If the consequences for English National Opera envisaged by Mr Melvyn Bragg were realised they would be vandalism of monumental proportions. The Coliseum's opera company is complementary to and in productive competition with the Royal Opera. If there is tension it is creative tension. Comparisons are invidious and irrelevant.

Like the Royal Opera, the ENO is a major national asset. So is its counterpart, Opera North. The Coliseum deserves maximum support. All who value our country's international standing in the arts should do everything possible to ensure that it gets it.

Yours sincerely,  
MARGARET BOSTON,  
27 Capstan Square, Isle of Dogs, E14,  
February 11.

In the Far East coronary heart disease is virtually unheard of. We could achieve the same here, where our record is appalling. The key is research and the British Heart Foundation funds more cardiac research than anybody else.

Yours faithfully,  
C. W. PALMER,  
Sheriff's Chambers,  
Sheriff Court House,  
1/6 Carnegie Drive, Dunfermline.

From Professor Anthony Field

Sir, We growing number of older people are interested in Sir Peter Imbert's secrets of recovering from a heart attack. The problem with exercise is its utter boredom.

Whilst "two miles on a walking machine at home at least twice a week" or riding an exercise bike can be done whilst listening to a radio or CD, watching television or even reading a book to occupy the mind, there is still the problem of such exercise not doing anything positive for others.

It would be wonderful if such exercise machines could be linked to pumping hot water to old people's homes or heating a hospital.

Yours truly,  
ANTHONY FIELD,  
152 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2,  
February 9.

today announced that we will be making improvements to the system during 1995. Your readers will see more open advertisements for vacancies on NHS boards and this should ensure that we reach an even wider pool of potential customers. Everyone will be eligible to apply.

The criteria against which applicants will be assessed will be publicly available and standard throughout the country. Panels of serving chairmen and non-executives, working to agreed criteria, will recommend to Ministers those candidates who they feel could most capably serve on NHS boards. As Ministers are directly accountable to Parliament for the NHS, the final choice of board members will, as now, remain with them.

Yours etc,  
GERALD MALONE,  
Department of Health,  
Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, SW1,  
February 14.

## Vox pop

From Mr N. L. Denton

Sir, Of course, the verb "to pop" can mean "to pawn" (as in the nursery rhyme, "Pop goes the weasel"). The fact that it is frequently used within hospitals (letters, February 8, 11) perhaps says something about the current state of the National Health Service.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL L. DENTON,  
12 Maria Court, Southcote Road,  
Reading, Berkshire.

## Bird's-eye view of Europe

From Mr Norman Lamont, MP for Kingston upon Thames (Conservative)

Sir, I was most interested to see Sir John Weston's letter (February 11) about the ring-necked parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*). I think more commonly known as the rose-ringed parakeet.

Like Sir John I was recently in Richmond Park (but unlike Sir John not running), when I saw a formation of long-tailed birds above me. I too noticed the uncanny resemblance to a squadron of Tornado aircraft. They were obviously not magpies. Since we were so far from the sea they were not long-tailed ducks or long-tailed skuas.

By a process of elimination I came to the same conclusion as Sir John, that they must be parakeets. This preliminary judgment was confirmed when I was recently in Delhi and saw many flocks of these wonderful birds. I think Sir John, however, is mistaken in calling the rose-ringed parakeet "a good European". Not only is the rose-ringed parakeet found all over India; it is also found in Africa, South America, the West Indies and parts of California.

Clearly the rose-ringed parakeet does not take a narrow insular European view but looks to the world.

Yours faithfully,  
NORMAN LAMONT,  
House of Commons,  
February 14.

## Church squabble

From the Archdeacon of York

Sir, My forthcoming book, *Affairs of State*, may be "slight and superficial" as the Archbishop of Canterbury suggests (report, February 13), but he has misrepresented its theme. Far from being no more than an attack on the morals of the Prince of Wales or even primarily on the leadership of the House of Bishops, it is an examination of the anxieties which many ordinary people feel at the decline of standards in our society — and of course, in the process, at the leadership we receive at all levels.

There is a malaise in our nation, and if an archdeacon suggests that a return to spiritual values and a biblical morality might offer a new beginning, he might surely expect the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury in this. Instead, Dr Carey (or maybe those who advise him) homes in on one small aspect of the book, once again deflecting serious debate by the resort to unnecessary abuse.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE AUSTIN,  
7 Lang Road, Bishopthorpe, York,  
February 13.

## Lottery odds

From Mr Bryan Clough

Sir, The odds against winning a jackpot on the National Lottery are 13,983,816 to one (0.0000072 per cent). These are reduced to 107,568 to one (0.0072 per cent) if 130 tickets with different numbers are acquired.

However, each draw is unique. A sequence of not winning the jackpot does not improve a punter's chances of winning it in any subsequent draw, as is implied by the calculation made by the lower sixth further maths set at Giggleswick School in their letter of February 4.

The odds continue at 107,568 to one for each draw, ad infinitum. Nor can anyone predict when, if ever, any set (or sets) of numbers is going to come up. And, because punters select their own sets of numbers, no one can even predict the number of jackpot winners in any draw.

The probability is that probability theory is wrong.

Yours,  
BRYAN CLOUGH,  
Risks Analysis (Publishers),  
9 Seymour Square, Brighton, Sussex,  
February 5.

From Mr K. M. Young

Sir, In an effort to save my wife from wasting her pound on the lottery every week, I worked out that it would take her 134,615 years just to have a 50/50 chance of winning the jackpot, a statistic that had a visible effect on her. Last week she bought two tickets.

Yours sincerely,  
K. M. YOUNG,  
24 Furzedown Road,  
Belmont, Sutton, Surrey,  
February 13.

## Stranger to a train

From Mrs Anne Trenchard

Sir, Perhaps Steven Norris (report, February 9; leading article and letter, February 10) should have a word with Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for Health, about the enormous sums saved by the dreadful human beings who use the London Underground.

Two years ago on a trip to Nepal, the only meat-eaters in the party not to succumb to "Delhi belly" were myself and a London solicitor. He came up from the south every day on the Northern Line, while I came down from the north every day on the same line. Everybody else drove to work.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE TRENCHARD,  
Roxton Dene, South Road,  
Chorleywood, Hertfordshire,  
February 10.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 14: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Mr Sydney Chapman MP (Vice-Chamberlain of the Household) was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented an Address from the House of Commons to which the Queen was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience with Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Visitor, this morning visited St Catherine's College, Oxford.

Major Charles Richards was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and Founder and Chairman of the International Trusts, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this evening gave a Reception for members of the Royal Collection Department.

**YORK HOUSE**  
February 14: The Duke of Kent this morning arrived at RAF Northolt from Dresden.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Anglo-German Association, this evening received His Excellency Herr Peter Hartmann, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mrs Hartmann.

The Duchess of Kent this morning opened Lydney House, a Child and Adolescent Neuro-Rehabilitation Unit, Highbank Healthcare Limited, Walmersley Road, Bury, Manchester, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened Rutherford House, Manchester Science Park Limited, Rutherford Avenue, Bury, Manchester, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 14: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon visited United Biscuits factory, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and was received by Major Everard de Lisle (Vice Lord-Lieutenant).

Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Her Royal Highness, Patron, later visited Dunn Nutrition Unit, Downham's Lane, Milton Road, Cambridge, to review the collaborative work between the centre and the British food industry and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

The Princess Royal this evening gave the Lecture to the Cambridge Union Society on Save the Children Fund at the Union Society, Cambridge.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
February 14: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, received the Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall (Mr John James) this morning.

His Royal Highness, Chairman, the Royal Collection Trust, this evening gave a Reception for members of the Royal Collection Department.

**YORK HOUSE**  
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## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, novelist, Aviles, Spain, 1519; Galileo Galilei, mathematician and astronomer, Pisa, 1564; Michael Praetorius, composer, Kitzingen, Germany, 1571 (he died on this day, Wolfenbüttel, 1621); Louis XV of France, crowned 1715; Versailles, 1710; Jeremy Bentham, Utilitarian philosopher, London, 1748; Alfred North Whitehead, philosopher, Ramsay, 1861; Sir Halford John Mackinder, geographer, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, 1861; Sir Banister Fletcher, architect, London, 1869; Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer, Kilkee, Co Clare, 1874; John Barrymore, actor, Philadelphia, 1882; H.M. Bateman, cartoonist, Sutton Forest, New South Wales, 1887; Graham Hill, racing driver, London, 1929.

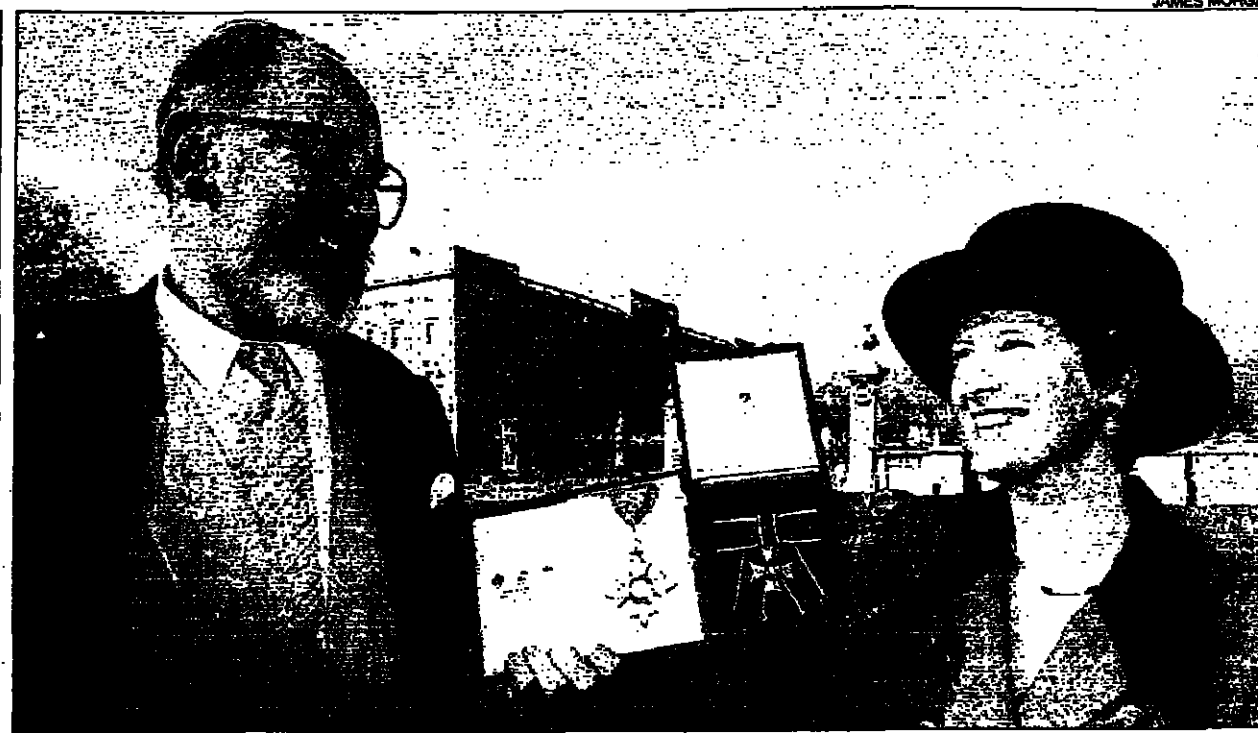
**DEATHS:** Henry Deane, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1501-03, London, 1503; Jan Swammerdam, entomologist, Amsterdam, 1680;

Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury, writer, 1671; Gotthold Lessing, dramatist, Braunschweig, Germany, 1711; Henry Hunt, political reformer, Alresford, Hampshire, 1835; Mikhail Glinka, composer, Berlin, 1857; Nicholas Wiseman, Cardinal and first Archbishop of Westminster, 1805-65; London, 1865; Alexander Borodin, composer, Leningrad, 1887; Lew Wallace, American Civil War general and author of *Ben Hur*, Crawfordsville, Indiana, 1900; Herbert Henry Asquith, 1st Earl of Oxford and Asquith, Prime Minister 1905-16, Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire, 1928; Ethel Merman, singer, New York, 1984.

The first cargo of frozen meat left New Zealand, bound for Britain, on the *SS Dunedin*, 1882.

Singapore surrendered to the Japanese army, 1942.

Britain changed to decimal currency, 1971.



Professor Gerald Benney and his daughter Genevieve Holmes achieved a rare royal double yesterday at Buckingham Palace. Professor Benney, 64, who lives near Newbury, Berkshire, was appointed

a Commander of the British Empire in the New Year honours list in recognition of his 25 years as silversmith to the royal family. Mrs Holmes, 32, who left the Prince of Wales's service last year, was

appointed a member of the Royal Victorian Order for her 12 years as his personal assistant. Mrs Holmes said: "It is quite a coincidence that we are both here together at the same time."

## Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the London Federation of Clubs for Young People, will attend a reception given by the Interparliamentary Group at Park House, 16 Finsbury Circus, EC2, at 6.15.

The Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Army Medical Corps, will visit the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital at Woolwich at 3.15.

The Prince of Wales will visit the BBC World Service at Bush House at 2.45.

Prince Edward, as Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend a musical soiree and dinner at St James's Palace at 7.15.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, will preside at the Adult Literacy Awards at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, 10.30.

As Commandant in Chief of St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, will attend the Chelsea Flower Show reception at St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, at 12.15.

As President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend the meeting of the council at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, at 4.15; and, as Master of the Woolmen's Company, will attend the annual court and ladies dinner at Buckingham Palace at 7.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, will visit Croydon Masonic Hall, Oakfield Road, Croydon, Surrey, at 6.00.

## Royal Caledonian Ball

The Royal Caledonian Ball will be held on Thursday, April 27, at the Grosvenor House, London, W1. Ball tickets are available at £55.00 to include wine, whisky and breakfast. Ball commences 10.00pm with dancing until 3.30am. A 3-course dinner is available, 7.30pm for £80.00, at £28.00 per person to include half bottle of wine. Please apply to Mrs R.H. Tyn, The Old Rectory, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 3JF. Tel: 0494 810363.

## Memorial services

**Mr Sebastian Shaw**

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Sebastian Shaw, actor, was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden, Canon Bill Hall, Senior Chaplain of the Actors' Church Union, officiated. Mr Ian Richardson read from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Miss Eselle Kohler read Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *The Ways of Love* and Mr Alan Ravenscroft read Mr Shaw's own poem *Gemini*. Mr Ben Kingsley read from Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*. Miss Sheila Allen read George Herbert's *A Life* and Mr Kenneth Strangh read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland. Mr Frank Middlemass paid tribute.

Mr Stephen Varcoe, baritone, accompanied by Mr Graham Anderson, piano, sang Brahms's *Wie bist du meine Königin* and Mr Martin Best played the guitar and sang his own composition of Ariel's songs from *The Tempest*. During the service hymns were sung to arrangements by Martin Shaw, the late uncle of Sebastian. Among other present were: Mrs Drusilla Macleod (daughter), Mrs Joan Shaw, Mrs Penelope Macleod (sister), Mrs Margaret Money, Mrs Olga Young, Dr Geoffrey Bonner-Morgan, Dr Margaret Money, Mrs Giles Downes and Mrs Giles Harnessed. The service was held at St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, at 12.15.

**HM Government**  
Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development, was the host yesterday at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House for Mr Daniel Tarschys, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

**HM Government**  
Mr Ian Taylor, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Trade

and Technology, was the host yesterday at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of Mr Frank Jensen, Danish Minister for Research.

**Ministry of Defence**  
Admiral Sir Jack Slater, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, was the host yesterday at a luncheon given by the Ministry of Defence at Admiralty House, in honour of Mr Michael H. A. Lord, Chief of Staff to the Chief of Defence of Denmark.

**Music and Art Scholarships 1995**  
Music Awards for 1995 have been awarded to the following:

**Music**  
Mr Simon Woodcock, 21, Edmund's School, Canterbury, Jonathan Day, The New Beacon, Sevenoaks, Kent, and Simon Woodcock, 21, Edmund's School, Canterbury, Kent.

**Art**  
Mr Simon Woodcock, 21, Edmund's School, Canterbury, Kent, and Simon Woodcock, 21, Edmund's School, Canterbury, Kent.

## Birthdays today

Miss Mary Adshead, mural painter, 91; Mr Clive Aslet, editor, *Country Life*, 40; Sir Nicholas Boyle, diplomat, 88; Sir Harold Beley, diplomat, 86; Sir William Bentley, diplomat, 66; Miss Claire Bloom, actress, 64; Mr Tony Bloom, joint deputy chairman, Sketchley, 56; Sir Stephen Brown, former chairman, Stone-Flat Industries, 89; the Earl of Carlisle, 46; Mr Derek Conway, MP, 42; Mr Dan Crompton, Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire, 54; Mr Justice Drake, 72; Mr Frank Dunlop, former director, Edinburgh International Festival, 68; the Countess of Dysart, 81; Mr Paul Ferris, actor, 66; Mr John Greenway, MP, 49; Mr Gerald Harper, actor and broadcaster, 66; the Earl of Howe, 85; Professor Andrew Miller, Principal, Stirling University, 59; Sir Richard O'Brien, former chairman, Manpower Services Commission, 75; Mr C.F. Payne, former Chief Constable, Cleveland, 65; Mr W.K. Reid, the Ombudsman, 64; Miss Jane Seymour, actress, 44; Miss Clare Short, MP, 49; Mr P.J. Squire, Headmaster, Bedford Modern School, 38; Sir Adrian Swire, chairman, John Swire and Sons, 63; Lord Justice Warr, 57; the Right Rev R.W. Woods, former Bishop of Worcester, 81.

## Tonbridge School

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**Art**  
Mr Simon Woodcock, 21, Edmund's School, Canterbury, Kent, and Simon Woodcock, 21, Edmund's School, Canterbury, Kent.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr J.F.C. Craven**  
and **Miss S.M.T. Adams**  
The engagement is announced between Mr Craven, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Craven, MRCVS, and Mrs Craven, of Quenborough, Leicestershire, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Adams, of Eastbourne, East Sussex.

**Mr M.I. Jaffit**  
and **Miss E.C. Kendrew**  
The engagement is announced between Mr Jaffit, younger son of Mr and Mrs Max Jaffit, of East Horsley, Surrey, and Emma, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kendrew, of Oulton, Hampshire.

**Mr P.K.M. Razam**  
and **Miss B.A. Robertson**  
The engagement is announced between Mr Razam, elder son of Canon and Mrs N.M. Razam, of Harwell, Oxfordshire, and Bernadette, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.C. Robertson, of Warrash, Hampshire.

**Mr S. Stavros**  
and **Miss M.J. Walker**  
The engagement is announced between Mr Stavros, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Stavros, of Peletria, Cyprus, and Miranda-Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Antony Walker, of St Ippolytes, Hertfordshire and Pissouri, Cyprus.

**Mr C.R. Wilford**  
and **Miss J.M. Bailey**  
The engagement is announced between Mr Wilford, son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Wilford, of Swetstone, Leicestershire, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bailey, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

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TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 0171 481 9313  
FAX: 0171 782 7828

## DEATHS

**DAVIES** - On February 11th 1995, suddenly at home, David Davies, 67, beloved husband of the late Valerie. Buried at St John's Church, London, W1. Tel: 0171 481 4000.

**BRAND** - On February 9th, in his 91st year, after a long illness, David Brand, 91, beloved husband of the late Marion. Buried at St John's Church, London, W1. Tel: 0171 481 4000.

**CLACKSON** - In his 91st year, after a long illness, David Clackson, 91, beloved husband of the late Marion. Buried at St John's Church, London, W1. Tel: 0171 481 4000.

**DUTHIE** - On February 10th, in his 91st year, after a long illness, David Duthie, 91, beloved husband of the late Marion. Buried at St John's Church, London, W1. Tel: 0171 481 4000.

**FITZGERALD** - On February 10th, in his 91st year, after a long illness, David Fitzgerald, 91, beloved husband of the late Marion. Buried at St John's Church, London, W1. Tel: 0171 481 4000.

**FOX** - On February 9th, in his 91st year, after a long illness, David Fox, 91, beloved husband of the late Marion. Buried at St John's Church, London, W1. Tel: 0171 481 4000.

**GRACE** - On February 10th, in his 91st year, after a long illness, David Grace, 91, beloved husband of the late Marion. Buried at St John's Church, London, W1. Tel: 0171 481 4000.

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**WILLIAMS** - On February 10th, in his 91st year, after a long illness, David Williams, 91, beloved husband of the late Marion. Buried at St John's Church, London, W1. Tel: 0171 481 4000.

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## OBITUARIES

## U NU

U Nu, Prime Minister of Burma for 12 of the years between 1947 and 1962, died in Rangoon yesterday aged 87. He was born on May 25, 1907.

THRUST unexpectedly into the leadership of Burma in 1947, on the eve of its independence, U Nu steered his country ably through insurrection and civil war. It was the assassination of Aung San, the architect of Burma's independence, that transformed U Nu from being a non-political Speaker of the Constituent Assembly into Prime Minister. But he went on to give a masterly performance, maintaining a democratic administration for 16 years by juggling his party factions and winning three general elections before being ousted in a military coup in 1962. He was an influential figure in the Non-Aligned Movement in the 1950s, while in the West he was respected for his integrity and commitment to democracy and religious tolerance.

U Nu was exiled throughout the 1970s but returned to Rangoon in 1980 and, at the height of pro-democracy demonstrations in Rangoon in September 1988, made an abortive attempt to regain power before a military junta seized control. In an autobiography written while imprisoned by his dictatorial successor, General Ne Win, he admitted, with remarkable frankness, that as a youth he had been "the chief of sinners" who revelled in lying, stealing, drinking, drug-taking and womanising until he discovered a deep sense of the spiritual truths of Buddhism.

During his years as Prime Minister he was hailed as *Rajarsi* — ruler-sage — and after a year in which he renounced, as Gandhi had done, all uxorious pleasures. With a broad, flat face usually creased into a huge grin he remained, at heart, a peasant and, to the delight of his followers, his speeches were full of crude counterfitted epithets and allusions. U Nu's political activities were to him only part of a much larger purpose: the preservation and advancement of Burmese culture, especially Theravada Buddhism. His efforts in this respect culminated in his translation from Burmese into English of the classics of Buddhism.

U Nu was born at Wakema in the Irrawaddy Delta. His father was a prosperous small-town rice trader.

Educated locally at first, he then attended the Myoma High School in Rangoon and the new University of Rangoon, where he took his BA degree in 1929. After graduation he worked as superintendent of a nationalist high school at Pantanaw, a small delta town where his closest friend was a former university classmate, U Thant, who went on to become Secretary-General of the United Nations.

During his studies U Nu developed a broad interest in English as well as Burmese literature and said that George Bernard Shaw was the model for some of his own literary efforts.

According to his memoirs, translated as *U Nu — Saturday's Son*, U Nu resolved at the age of 19 to be a Bodhisattva — one who is capable of achieving nirvana but postpones doing so in order to help alleviate human suffering. While not a particularly original thinker, he did combine in his life and work traditional Burmese Buddhist beliefs with modern political practice.

Returning to Rangoon University to study law, he was drawn into the leadership of the students' union and the nationwide student strike it organised against the colonial government in 1936. With many other students he joined the Thakin Party — so named because Thakin, or "master" was the way in which Europeans expected to be addressed by Burmese. He was a member of the *Dobama Asiayun*, the leading radical nationalist movement of the 1930s. He also founded the *Nagani* (Red Dragon) publishing house, wrote several plays and political tracts and was arrested for his anti-imperialist activities. This gained him the respect of younger nationalist colleagues who valued his ability to mobilise popular support and to create a positive nationalism out of the long smouldering Burmese resentment against British rule.

By 1940 U Nu was prominent enough to be imprisoned by the British authorities. They released him in a vain attempt to send him as an emissary to China's Kuomintang leaders. This initiative was aborted by the Japanese occupation and within two years U Nu became a member of Dr Ba Maw's Government under the Japanese occupation, serving as Minister of Information and Foreign Affairs.

At the end of the war U Nu sought



political obscurity, hoping to withdraw from public life to write. However, the maelstrom of postwar politics drew him back into the centre of affairs when in 1946 he was elected vice-president of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL), the major nationalist front. It had recently agreed with the British Governor, Sir Hubert Rance, to join a transitional executive council prior to independence. In June 1947 Nu was elected to the non-party role of president (Speaker) of the Constituent Assembly formed to draft a constitution.

Within six weeks, however, Aung San, was assassinated together with almost all his Cabinet. U Nu was, at 41, Burma's elder statesman and was called upon by the Governor to take

over as Prime Minister. He quickly formed a new government, concluded the negotiations for the handover of sovereignty and presided at the independence ceremonies on January 4, 1948. Soon after, however, his Government faced separate rebellions from the Burma Communist Party and the Karen community in east Burma; and it was only through his political charisma, as well as the military resources of the beleaguered state, that he was able to see the anti-government forces broken by the early 1950s.

Nu then led the AFPFL to success in national elections in 1952 and 1956. During his rule nationalisation measures were introduced, mainly directed at breaking British and Indian dominance over the economic life of

the country, and education and welfare measures opened up to greater numbers of people. At the same time U Nu gradually modified the Marxist outlook that had prevailed at independence and promoted greater observance of Buddhism and tolerance of other religions.

But behind his part apparent strength there lay many fissures that led him, in 1956, to relinquish the prime ministership for nine months and in 1958 to resign again for 18 months to make way for a caretaker government led by the Army Commander, General Ne Win. U Nu's party won re-election in 1960, but in March 1962 he was ousted from office in a coup led by Ne Win.

Following five years of house arrest, U Nu was permitted to leave Burma for health reasons in 1967. He soon began to organise a movement to overthrow the Ne Win Government. Operating from Thailand for several years, this effort failed for a variety of reasons, not least of which was U Nu's own unwillingness to shed the blood of his fellow countrymen, and in 1972 he abandoned politics totally to reside near a Buddhist monastery in India. There, he remained in quiet exile until 1980 when, at the invitation of President Ne Win, he returned to Burma to receive a state award for his services to Burma and to accept an offer to translate Buddhist texts.

When increasing civil unrest caused the fall of the Ne Win regime in 1988, U Nu declared himself Prime Minister of a 26-member government but his action failed to capture much popular support and foundered when a military junta seized power on September 18. Two months later he and 11 associates were detained for failing the junta's orders to dissolve their embryonic government. He remained under house arrest until April 1992 and after release continued to campaign on behalf of Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy campaigner under house arrest in Rangoon since July 1989.

As a politician, U Nu was often mistrusted by his political colleagues as arrogant and presumptuous, as he admitted in his memoirs. But he was revered by the Burmese public for his political charisma, ascetic behaviour and the depth of his religious conviction.

U Nu's wife Daw Mya Yee predeceased him; he is survived by his five children.

## JAMES MERRILL

James Merrill, American poet and novelist, died of a heart attack in Tucson, Arizona, on February 7 aged 68. He was born in New York on March 3, 1926.



ONE of the most gifted, in the technical sense, of that generation of American poets which emerged in the 1950s James Merrill at first appeared in danger of becoming a victim of his own inventive facility. Reviewers were prone to suspect that his curiously handled imagery, his manifestly cultivated tastes and his careful control of form and content were perhaps merely the superficial adjuncts of a sensibility which had not, in Jungian phrase, "gone to the bottom" in life. There was a fear that Merrill's talent might, in the end, prove to be merely the minor lyric gift of an American rich boy whose circumstances enabled him to sip experience in whatever part of the world his fancy might lead him.

But as time went on, and Merrill was able to look back on and rework his earlier experience, it could be seen that his metaphysics were something more than just an alliance between dazzling technique and frigid wit. By the appearance of the admirably risky and entitled *Divine Comedies* (1976) Merrill had emerged as a poet of vision and depth. The volume deservedly won him the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry of its year.

James Merrill was the son of wealthy parents, his father's third but his mother's only child. His father was the founder of the Wall Street brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch; his mother owned a newspaper. Summers were spent on Long Island, winters in Florida. After his parents divorced his mother settled with him in New York.

He served in the US Army during the last year of the Second World War and then went to Amherst College, where he wrote a thesis on Proust and had some of his early poems published. Later he settled in Connecticut with a male companion with whom he travelled to Europe, particularly to Greece and the Levant. This region, with its

guiltless ambisexuality, was important to him (he and his friend later bought a flat in Athens) and there is much evidence in his later work of the influence of Cavafy.

In the meantime he had published his first major collection, *First Poems*, in 1951. Like its successor *The Country of a Thousand Years of Peace* (1959) it was regarded as being an affair of skill rather than of heart. Undaunted, Merrill tried other literary forms: short stories, plays and novels. *The Immortal Husband* (1953), which retold the story of Aurora and Tithonus, was produced off Broadway in 1955.

His first novel *The Seraglio* (1957) was perhaps too much under the influence of Henry James, but with the 1960s and a return to poetry it was apparent that he was finding an authentic voice. The successive volumes *Water Street* (1962), *Nights and Days* (1966) and *Braving the Elements* (1972) gave a much fuller rein to his talents than their predecessors, and though the sense of tight control was still there, it was given strength by a new complexity of feeling. A second novel, *The Dilemma* (1965), a tale of sexual fixation between half brothers who come together on a Greek island, had undoubtedly moments of felt experience, though its use of a notebook style (with deletions preserved to tantalise the reader) subverted these by inducing an overall matter-of-factness into the relation of events.

Besides his Pulitzer Prize, Merrill won two National Book Awards.

## REAR-ADMIRAL SIR DAVID ALLEN

Rear-Admiral Sir David Allen, KCVO, CBE, Defence Services Secretary and Chief Naval Supply Officer, 1988-91, died of a heart attack on January 13 aged 61. He was born on June 14, 1933.



DAVID ALLEN rose to the top of his profession as a naval supply and secretariat officer. His final tour as Defence Services Secretary combined the duties of managing the relationship between the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Family and maintaining the balance of appointments of senior officers to tri-service posts.

His contacts with Buckingham Palace were extensive and embraced policy issues and those proposals for promotions and appointments and for honours and awards which require the sovereign's approval.

David Allen joined the Royal Navy in 1949 and followed a conventional career as a "pusser" (supply officer) with tours in the Far East and home waters. A man of excellent judgment, full of wise counsel to the many senior officers he supported, he was also possessed of an original wit. When a lieutenant, his first ministry appointment as assistant secretary to the First Sea Lord, the formidable Admiral Sir Varyl Begg, required him to forward a formal photograph for record and public relations purposes.

A second closer glance at it would show that the knuckles of this smart young officer in dress uniform were somehow, in simian fashion, brushing the ground.

His later tours included a testing three years, 1978-81, supporting two different Controllers of the Navy during the equipment procurement battles of the day and also running the front office for Admiral Sir John (afterwards Lord) Fieldhouse, First Sea Lord, during the intensely political aftermath of the Falklands War.

Allen was created KCVO in 1991. He had been an independent inspector on the Lord Chancellor's Panel since 1992. From 1993 he was a director of the Avon NHS Trust. One of his hobbies in later life was managing his flock of more than a hundred sheep.

He is survived by his wife Margaret and their two sons.

## NATHAN GOLDENBERG

Nathan Goldenberg, OBE, chief food technologist at Marks & Spencer, 1948-72, died on January 26 aged 83. He was born on September 4, 1911.

NATHAN GOLDENBERG was the senior food scientist at Marks & Spencer for 25 years. He was not chef himself and could not be said to have created any of the products on

the stores' shelves. But he led food retailing in Britain through a profound revolution.

Perhaps his biggest contribution was the tough line he took on hygiene — salmonella, listeria and botulism being bigger problems in the early days of pre-prepared and frozen food. Not just the raw materials, but wrapping, print, containers, distribution premises

were all rigorously monitored, as were the farms and factories which supplied the company. Goldenberg was not always an easy man to work with but he stood his ground on matters of hygiene and quality.

He also pioneered the idea of specification buying and established productive links with universities. He kept the use of additives, on which he held many reservations, down

to a minimum, and insisted that any additive used had to perform a specific function.

He achieved all this virtually from a standing start, having joined the team of food technologists at Marks & Spencer in 1948. When he arrived very little had changed since the company first ventured into food retailing just after the First World War. Biscuits, confectionery, custards and ice-cream were being sold but none were made specifically for Marks & Spencer.

By the early 1950s the attention paid to food retailing was decreasing if anything, as priority went instead to clothing and textile development. Other sections of Marks & Spencer's business, including foods, were slumped down or eliminated to allow more space for clothes racks.

However, in the mid-1950s Sir Simon Marks had a change of heart. He called Goldenberg in to his office, told him to drop all other work and to concentrate on developing a limited range of high-quality cakes. If the cakes were a success, then the same approach would be applied to the other food departments. If they failed, then food retailing at Marks & Spencer might well be scrapped altogether.

After cakes, Goldenberg developed his own range of biscuits, tinned products and fresh fruit. High-risk foods like meat, poultry, dairy and fish products followed and in 1970 Marks & Spencer established a national chilled food distribution system. With that, the development of high-quality chilled convenience foods became a possibility, and a whole new market opened up. Nathan Goldenberg was

born in Boguslav, near Kiev, in the Ukraine. His mother was a doctor, his father a journalist and a book dealer. The family settled in Notting Hill, London, in 1921, after escaping the horrors of the civil war. He was educated at Latimer Upper School, Harmsworth, and on a scholarship at Birkbeck College, London, where he took a first in chemistry.

For twenty years he worked as a research chemist for J. Lyons & Co. Food technology was then in its infancy, and Goldenberg did research into the starch component of wheat flour. In 1948 he joined Marks & Spencer, as technical executive and chief chemist to the food division. He retired in 1972 though he continued to act in the capacity of scientific adviser until 1985.

He sat on various committees, among them the food additives and contaminants committee at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 1964-75, and acted as a consultant to the Israeli food industry. He was a strong supporter of the Zionist movement. He also wrote scores of scientific papers on various aspects of hygiene and quality control. He was appointed OBE in 1976.

He is survived by his wife Edith, whom he married in 1937, and one son.

Joan Ramsey (Obituary, February 14) married Michael Ramsey, the future Archbishop of Canterbury, when he was Van Mildert Professor of Divinity at Durham University and not while he was Bishop of Durham. Also, she was born on September 16, 1909, not 1910.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

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## THE POLAR DISASTER.

## NATIONAL HOMAGE TO THE DEAD.

St. Paul's Cathedral has been the scene of many great services, but the one held yesterday in memory of Captain Scott and his gallant companions will bear comparison with the greatest of them. In opportunity, in the multitudes of those who sought entrance to the church, in the reverence and sympathy exhibited by all classes of people, it was a remarkable manifestation. The King was present; the Government was represented by the Prime Minister and several members of the Cabinet; Ambassadors and Ministers of foreign States were among the congregation. The national services, scientific societies, civic and official life all sent distinguished representatives.

But, notable as was this tribute of homage, it was immeasurably enhanced by the presence of thousands of private citizens, whom a very real sense of personal loss caused to assemble in such numbers. The Cathedral was filled to its utmost capacity, and it is computed that something like 10,000 persons were unable to obtain admission. The service was held for noon, but at 9.30 the oblique dense crowds surrounded the Cathedral and lined all its approaches. It was, indeed, only with the utmost difficulty that many distinguished persons were able to gain access to the building. The air was raw, mist-laden and

## ON THIS DAY

## February 15 1913

Captain Scott with Lieutenant Bowers, Petty Officer Evans, Captain Oates and Dr Wilson reached the South Pole on January 18, 1912, only to find that the Norwegian Amundsen had preceded them. The journey back was made in appalling conditions — blizzards, temperatures of -40°F and lack of fuel. They perished within 11 miles of a supply depot.

cheerless, but the people in the streets did not disperse till the service was over... Within the Cathedral all is hushed and dim. Gradually the building fills, and as it does so one catches glimpses of the scarlet tunics of distinguished soldiers, of scarlet gowns, the garb of City aldermen, and of the golden epaulettes of naval officers shining out conspicuously against the dark background of their uniforms... While the congregation assembled the band played Handel's "Largo" and Sir A. C. Mackenzie's "Benedicite." These were followed,

just before the service, by Sullivan's "In Memoriam" Overture. In the finale to which the band was accompanied by the organ. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs entered in civic State shortly before 12, and just on the stroke of noon the rising of the whole congregation indicated the arrival of the King. His Majesty, wearing the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet, was conducted to his seat, and the service began...

## THE DEFICIENCY OF FUEL.

## PETTY OFFICER EVANS'S ILLNESS.

It would seem from what has escaped some of the survivors that Evans lost his reason for the time being under the great stress of fatigue and privation and was incapable of obeying orders, or assisting his hard-pushed companions in the weary work of pulling the sledge. Indeed, it became necessary in the end to lay him on the ice. Captain Scott's reference to the shortage of fuel at the depots has been a matter of deep concern to the members of the supporting parties. They are greatly surprised, and agree in affirming that they themselves made no undue use of the fuel. When the search party discovered the bodies of Captain Scott and his comrades there was no fuel at all in the tent. The question whether Captain Scott, Dr. Wilson, and Lieutenant Bowers might have been saved by a premature firestorm of a party of rescuers during March is being warmly discussed. A great deal of feeling is said to be displayed among the survivors themselves touching this matter...

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You don't have to be a millionaire to live next to a golf course, where houses come in all shapes and sizes, says John Macgowan

There is always a feeling of sadness at the end of a round of golf when the player has to clamber into his car after a careful quick one in the 19th and head for home.

If only home were by the course, it would not only save the drive but provide the chance to play at any time, the golfer thinks.

There is no reason why it should not be. Houses by golf courses are on sale throughout the country. They come in all shapes, sizes and prices and are available whether the golfer is still working or looking for a retirement home.

Most are situated by, or overlooking, a course, but it is rare to find one that offers membership as part of the package, a selling gimmick often present with Spanish, French and Portuguese courses, where the houses are part of the development.

One place where membership is on offer is at Pitt, Hampshire, next to the South Winchester Golf Course designed by the television golf commentators Peter Alliss and Clive Clark. Two period barns are being rebuilt and converted into large houses on the edge of the course, and the buyers will receive club membership. Manor Barn, with a vaulted dining room, principal and guest bedroom suites, two further bedrooms, and a first floor gallery and living room, is priced at £250,000. The smaller Manor Cottage, originally a chalk barn, has four bedrooms and a guide price of £200,000 (both available through John D. Wood).

Not far away in Hampshire, but without the benefit of member-

## One small step to the golf course



Romenda Lodge (left), which fronts the 15th fairway of the West Course at Wentworth, sold for £900,000. Linkway (right) has a gate on to the 17th tee at Effingham (£675,000)



ship, is the much less expensive, modern three-bedroom detached house overlooking Old Thorns course at Liphook (£99,000 through Hampsons), and at Crondall near the Surrey border, seven houses by that course are for sale. One is Lime Trees, a listed five-bedroom house of original open hall cruck construction, dating from the 15th century, which stands in three acres and overlooks the course. The house is one

of the oldest in the village (John D. Wood, £495,000).

In Surrey there are a number of houses available, some overlooking famous courses — but not Romenda Lodge, the large 1920s house fronting the 15th fairway of the West Course at Wentworth and until recently the rented home of the Duchess of York and her two daughters. Its sale for around £900,000 through Knight Frank & Rutley to a foreign businessman

working in the UK was completed recently.

By Worplesdon and Effingham golf clubs in the same area are two similar fine family homes. Sefton Lodge (Hampsons £550,000) backs on to the 17th green and 18th tee at Worplesdon and was built in the 1920s. It has a master bedroom suite, seven more bedrooms and stands in two acres.

Linkside has a gate on to the 17th tee at Effingham and also has

views of the North Downs. The house was built in the 1930s with major extensions in the 1960s, and has five bedrooms, three bathrooms, four reception rooms, with a heated swimming pool (£675,000, Savills).

In the Midlands, Olympic swimming silver medalist Sharon Davis and her husband, the athlete Derek Redmond, former British 400 metre record-holder, have their Georgian-style three-

storey house on the market with Jackson-Stops & Staff at £285,000. It adjoins the Collingtree Park Golf Course near Northampton, which was laid out by American Johnny Miller, the former Open Champion, four years ago.

The house, with five bedrooms, was built three years ago and stands in about half an acre, with a swimming pool. Further north in the Midlands is The Old Kennels, near the new Rufford Hills Golf

Course near Newark, Nottinghamshire. It can combine equestrian sports for a non-golfing partner because of its 26 acres and stable buildings (£395,000, Savills).

Move west and there is a choice for someone who wants to retire next to the scene of his or her favourite occupation. On the edge of Dartmoor, and by the drive of Okehampton Golf Course, stands Sylvan Steps, an unusual L-shaped modern four-bedroom house (Millers, £110,000). In near-by Exeter, for business or retirement, a traditional four-bedroom house in Countess Wear backs on to Exeter Golf Course (Pulford, £182,500).

But if retirement by the sea is the aim, then Fulford of Exeter can offer a five-bedroom modern house with a balcony overlooking the course and the sea at Thurlestone, not far from Salcombe and Burgh Island on the Devon coast, for £265,000.

The fact is that wherever you want to play golf you will find a house. It can range from a purpose-built weekend lodge, such as those by The Watermark Club's Overstone Park course in Northamptonshire, to St Mary's Hotel Golf and Country Club at Pencoed near Bridgend. That is the ultimate for a golfer who has won the National Lottery, the chance to play unlimited golf on one's own course. It is a 27-hole golf course with a 15-bay driving range, a 24-bedroom country house hotel and a restaurant for up to 100 people, set in 150 acres of parkland. It is a snip at £3.25 million (Knight Frank & Rutley).

## Rising in the west



Albion Street (left) is one of the smartest streets in W2. Houses there are similar to those in Eaton Terrace (right) — but dramatically cheaper



The Connaught Triangle, which makes up the 90-acre Hyde Park Estate in London, is witnessing a renaissance. The area, with a mix of both good period and modern properties, is west of Marble Arch and north of Hyde Park, in the postcode area W2. It is central, minutes from Hyde Park, Paddington Station and the rail link to Heathrow which is opening in 1997, and all the West End can offer. It also has a village feel, with plenty of local shops, a strong community and excellent restaurants.

With all this going for it, you would think it would be one of the most expensive areas of London, but for some reason W2 has always been second cousin to the smarter and more fashionable Belgravia and Knightsbridge, Kensington and Chelsea.

But now, it is these lower prices which are attracting people who would normally have bought in Kensington or Belgravia. Francis Norris was looking in the Kensington area last year to buy a three-bedroom flat, but could not find what he wanted for the money. He eventually bought a flat through Foxtons in Cleveland Square, which is just further west of the Connaught Triangle, for £395,000. The equivalent flat in Kensington, the agents say, would have cost £600,000.

Price differentials are quite staggering. In Connaught Square, a six-bedroom house on four floors on a 43-year lease selling through De Groot Collis is valued at £690,000. A house with equivalent internal layout in Chapel Street, Belgravia, with one less bedroom, but with a garage and a 50-year lease, is on the market for £1,495,000. Without a garage this

After years of playing second cousin to more fashionable areas such as Belgravia, W2 is coming into its own. Mary Wilson reports

would probably be about £1.3 million.

Another example is of a five-bedroom, four-reception room house in Albion Street, selling for £945,000, which is far cheaper than a similar property in Belgravia. Albion Street is one of the smartest streets in W2, with excellent period properties on both sides of the street. "The exterior of this property is very similar to houses in Eaton Terrace, SW1," Anthony Lassman, of Lassmans, says. "The main difference is price. You could expect to pay up to 80 per cent more for a freehold house in Eaton Terrace."

"Belgravia is unquestionably the more fashionable of the two addresses, but properties in W2 offer outstanding value for money," he says.

Further west, a two-bedroom flat in the up-and-coming addresses of Queens Gardens or Cleveland Square would cost between £200,000 and £250,000. The equivalent in Notting Hill or Kensington would fetch between £300,000 to £395,000.

"The prices used to be more comparable," says Charles Oliver, of Chestertons Residential, which has a branch in Connaught Street. "Over the past 10 to 15 years a big gulf has developed. It will be decades before it catches up."

One of the reasons that prices have stayed low, apart from the area just not being on many people's shopping list when they start looking, is the dearth of agents in the area. Agents, by and

large, help to work the prices up, but there have not been enough in the area to have done that.

De Groot Collis opened its first W2 office last September. "We felt it was a part of London which was undervalued and light on agents," says Priscilla Stille, a director of the company. "It is an area with some growth in it and the Hyde Park Estate, which is the best part of the area, is quiet, clean and well-maintained."

The area has another positive advantage, and that is its parking. As restrictions on parking in central London tighten, so it becomes more essential to buy or rent property with a garage or parking space. Under the Hyde Park Estate there is parking for more than 1,000 cars and there are always spaces. These can be rented on a yearly basis and it means that anyone working in the City, for example, knows their car is safe and secure while they are away.

"Many of the houses have their own garages," Charles Oliver says, "but even if your own property does not have a parking space, you can rent an underground space for around £1,800 plus VAT a year. At St George's Field, a development of flats in Albion Street, every property has its own parking space. Some owners who do not need the space rent them out for £20-£30 a week."

Other areas growing in demand are Gloucester Square and Hyde Park

Square, Clarendon Place, Connaught Close and Radnor Place. Around St John's Church, Hyde Park Crescent, Raynham, Castleacre and Southacre, blocks of flats with 24-hour security and landscaped gardens, are also very popular.

Over the last 12 months, prices have risen by around 20 per cent. A five-bedroom modern house in Oxford Square, for example, saw its value increase from £300,000 to £425,000 and a four-bedroom period house in Albion Street, where all the houses are freehold, went from £470,000 to £570,000.

At the lower end of the market, the W2 area is also making a comeback. Simon Agace, chairman of Winkworths, says, "Many younger people in their twenties or early thirties are looking for flats around the £200,000 to £250,000 mark on the Hyde Park Estate."

"During the last two years, buyers in the middle price range have realised that W2 offers very good value for money," says Sean Cusack, director of Foxtons' Notting Hill Gate office. "Often, the large stucco properties offer more space for buyers who are being squeezed out of Notting Hill. W2 is a prestigious address. It just has not received the recognition it deserves."

### CORRECTION

Number 115 Eaton Square, London SW1, mentioned on February 8, 1995, is being marketed by Aylesford & Co (0171-351 2383).

Number 12 Eaton Square is being sold through De Groot Collis's Knightsbridge office.

## For those who like to bask in the past

Michael Ackroyd looks like a young Martin Chuzzlewit, and his Victorian home provides the authentic setting. He lives in a terrace house dating back to 1898, without electricity, a bathroom or even an inside toilet. But Mr Ackroyd, 28, has always wanted to live in Little Dinner Cottage, near Tamworth, and even if he won the lottery, would not want to live anywhere else.

"It's so peaceful," says Mr Ackroyd, who lives alone in his two-bedroom home. Mr Ackroyd is the local undertaker. Each day he dons a morning coat and a top hat, leads a Victorian horse-drawn hearse, and plays the organ at the local church.

Having begun collecting artefacts during his childhood, Mr Ackroyd has filled his cottage with local memorabilia. When he moved in two years ago, friends and neighbours filled the house with gifts. The blue velvet curtains at the parlour window were given to him by the local hotel. The church gave him a table and chair, and the local shop gave him a wall unit for his china. All he had to do was pay £30 a week to his landlady and the rest happened naturally.

When the contents of the old village school were auctioned off several years ago, Mr Ackroyd noted buyers' names and has been contacting them ever since to ask if they would sell him any items. He already has the school registers, certificates, photographs, headmaster's cabinet and a teacher's schoolbag dating from 1914. He even persuaded the highest bidder for the school's overmantle to swap it for two pictures.

The previous owner of the cottage was born in an upstairs bedroom, and her parents may have been the first tenants. They did not undertake any modernisation; there is no electricity, and gas still provides lighting as well as cooking facilities.

"At £12 a quarter," he says, "gas is very cheap. I've always been fascinated by gas lights and have about 30 different types. Bright light gives me a headache so I'm happy to put

Little Dinner Cottage has no bathroom or electricity, but its tenant wouldn't change a thing

my collection to use. I don't miss anything. I can't stand television and prefer to create my own music, or use my imagination looking for pictures in the fire."

Every room has its original fireplace: each one adorned with bellows, old clocks or candles. There is a cold tap in the scullery but, to have a cup of tea or a wash, Mr Ackroyd heats up a kettle. Three times a

Mr Ackroyd's cottage is home to a growing collection of local memorabilia

week he goes next door to have a hot bath. His mother lives in a modern house just up the road. He visits her twice a week to do his washing. Otherwise, Mr Ackroyd lives entirely in the past.

Red quarry tiles cover the floor, and the walk-in pantry is stocked with old war-time packets which create "another world" feel. There is a milk churn at the back door, where Mr Ackroyd stores his daily deliveries. In hot weather, because he has no fridge, he stands his milk in a bucket of cold water. But fresh produce purchased daily, he says, is the safest and most enjoyable solution to life.

According to Mr Ackroyd's mother, his house is a "museum piece". The scullery retains

its original locally made blue brick flooring, and the laundry copper in the corner is coal-fired from below to boil water. There are two washing dollys, and a scrubbing board that requires good old-fashioned elbow grease.

Without modern-day facilities, and damp, no ordinary building society would offer Mr Ackroyd a mortgage. He does not want to modernise Little Dinner Cottage and does not have money enough to secure a deposit at the moment but, when he does, the Ecological Building Society could be his saviour.

Anyone determined to live in an historic house, and whose application for a mortgage has been turned down by the more conventional building societies, need not despair. "That's actually in their favour from our point of view," Bob Lowman, chief executive of the Ecology Building Society, says. "Mr Ackroyd's home would be of particular interest to us because it is part of a terrace, making it more energy efficient."

With assets of £15.5 million, Britain's third smallest building society has 430 borrowers and 4,000 investors. From a homey office in the village of Keighley, West Yorkshire, the EBS lends mortgages to people engaged in projects which will benefit the environment. Advances are made on housing that is self-sufficient, saves on non-renewable resources, or makes the most ecological use of land.

Some EBS home owners live in houses as exciting as Mr Ackroyd's. They own 17th-century farms or remote cottages in the bleak Welsh hillsides without mains electricity. At 8.6 per cent from January 1, an EBS mortgage is not cheap, and it lends only on a maximum of 80 per cent of the value. "We aren't just a soft touch, and we do not take any old rubbish," Mr Bowman says. "We operate on a very human level." And if all goes well, it could soon be on first name terms with Mr Ackroyd.

MORAG PRESTON

● The Ecology Building Society (01535 639933)



Michael Ackroyd says of life in his cottage near Tamworth: "I don't miss anything"



# A spring in the market

The commercial property market in the South East of England is slowly waking from the hibernation of recession, mirroring an increasingly optimistic picture in London. As activity in the market in the last quarter of 1994 is analysed, giving observers the opportunity for year-on-year comparisons, various trends are identifiable. Vacancy rates are falling, there is a shortage of the best space and new development is beginning again.

Weatherall Green & Smith reports in a survey of the region that office vacancy fell from 17.2 to 14.3 per cent in 1994 as take-up increased to more than 5 million sq ft.

Within the overall picture, there have been notable falls in the amount of empty space in locations including Crawley/Gatwick, Heathrow, Hemel Hempstead, Maidenhead, Milton Keynes, Slough, St Albans, Staines and Uxbridge, and vacancy rates have fallen below 10 per cent in Cambridge, Oxford, Maidstone and Redhill/Reigate.

Marcus Henley, the head of Weatherall's southeast office, believes that rental growth will return this year as the availability of good quality office space is reduced. "There is, for instance, no prime new space available in the Redhill-Reigate area and only 5 per cent of the 116,974 sq ft of current supply is in good-standard secondhand buildings."

The market for the limited supply of good space is therefore very

## Christopher Warman reports on a definite change in the South East

strong, Mr Henley says. "With the emphasis on first-rate buildings, 1995 should see the development markets prospering in Reading, Redhill/Reigate, Maidenhead and Slough." Already there have been several prelettings, including Nokia in Camberley, NorTel in Maidenhead and Norman Insurance in Reading.

Weatherall says that there could be a resurgence in the refurbishment market where it can compete on cost and timing with any new development.

Encouraging signs are emerging from the office market around the M25, as two reports show. By the end of last year, the vacancy rate reached single figures (9.8 per cent) as the total available was reduced to 968,359 sq metres (10.4 million sq ft), Knight Frank & Rutley reports. The supply of new floorspace declined by nearly 25 per cent in 1994, bringing space around the M25 back towards market balance.

Though some parts of the M25 remain well supplied, the south-west quadrant, the area between the M23 and M4 intersections, is showing a shortage. At present take-up levels, there will be little or no new space available anywhere in the Gatwick/Surrey market by this autumn.

Knight Frank & Rutley says falling supply is attracting strong

interest from developers, although they remain cautious. They are refining existing planning consents, securing their funding and initiating advance marketing campaigns before they go ahead.

As the short supply of new space has stimulated the prelet market, so it has provided strong impetus to the secondhand sector. For the first time in three years, take-up of secondhand space in the fourth quarter of 1994 exceeded that of new accommodation.

Richard Ellis, in its latest M25 office market bulletin, reports that in the last quarter of 1994 office space take-up fell for the second consecutive quarter, but this was partly due to a continued lack of choice. "As a result," the agent says, "preletting is likely to become a more significant characteristic of the market during 1995 as occupiers find their choice of built accommodation restricted."

In London, both in Docklands and in the West End, take-up of office space is at its highest for several years. In Docklands, Knight Frank & Rutley reports, take-up in 1994 of 75,620 sq metres (809,000 sq ft) was the highest since 1987, and though only 2 per cent up on 1993, is an indication of underlying improvements.

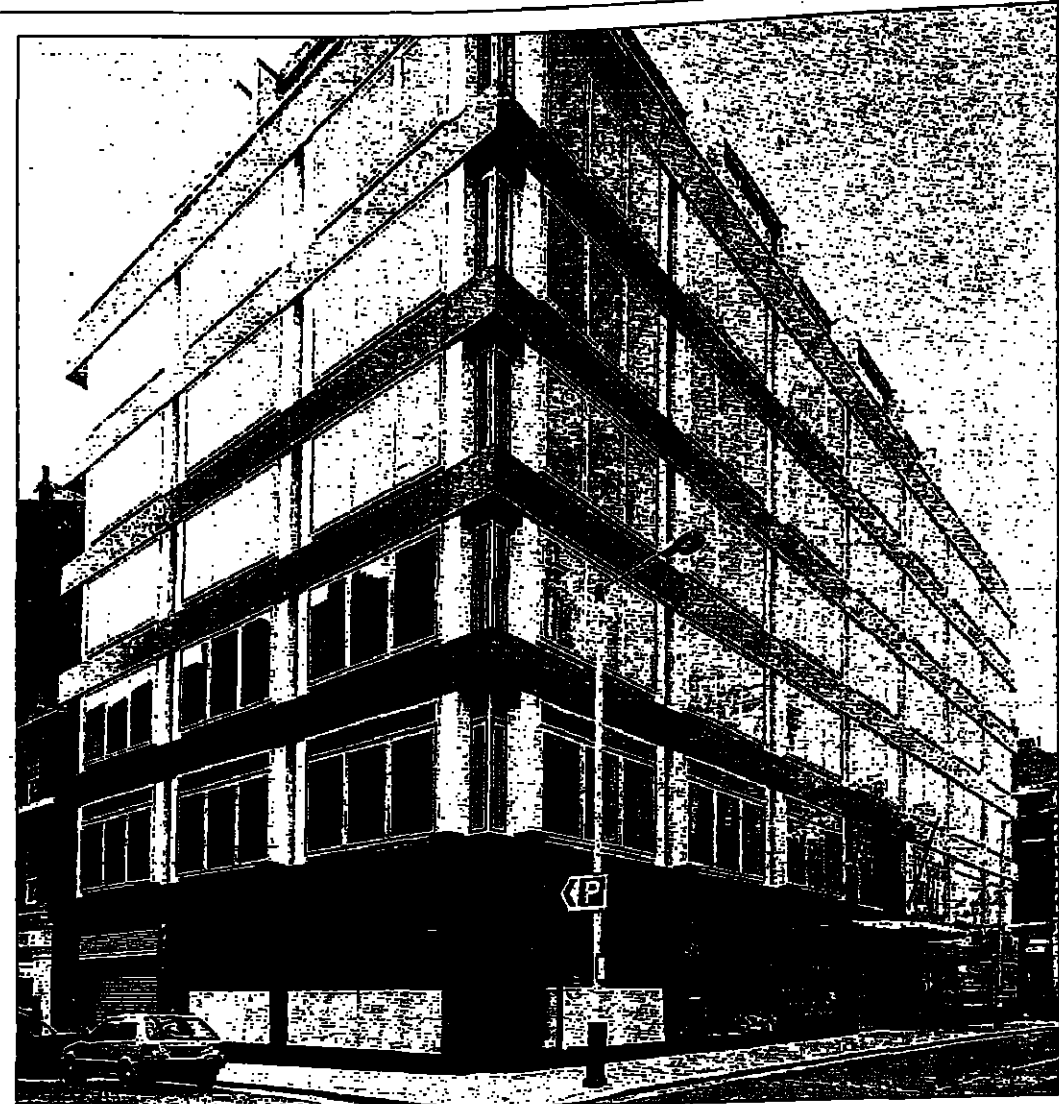
Stephen Newbold, KFR's central London analyst, says: "Tenants' perception of Docklands continues to improve. During 1994, there was a positive change in the nature of demand away from bank-related disaster recovery requirements seen earlier in the year to genuine searches for headquarters premises."

Encouragingly, for the wider Docklands market, tenant demand in 1994 was not focused entirely on Canary Wharf — 78 per cent of space was taken up on the Isle of Dogs outside Canary Wharf.

Present supply is divided almost equally between Canary Wharf and the rest of Docklands, but Canary Wharf seems likely to lead the leasing market during the early stages of this year. "During the short to medium term, the shortage of major new office buildings elsewhere in central London, coupled with progress on the Jubilee Line extension should combine to act in Docklands's favour."

"The regeneration of Docklands, and its true emergence as a premier commercial centre, is dependent upon major occupiers recognising it as a location from which they can do business. This is now happening," Mr Newbold says.

He pointed to a similar situation in the West End, where the take-up of office space in 1994 rose by 11.2 per cent. There are variations of availability, ranging from a low of 6.5 per cent in Victoria to 13.2 per cent in the core of Mayfair and St James's.



Burlington Gardens: in the largest Mayfair letting for 18 months, Pearson has taken as its new headquarters the 40,000 sq ft Scottish Widows development at 3-5 Burlington Gardens, London W1 D.E. and J. Levy, the agents, report the rent to be up to £35 a sq ft, rent-free for 18 months.

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## IRVINE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Disposal of Housing Stock

Irvine Development Corporation must dispose of its housing stock to successor landlords by December 31 1996, following a ballot of tenants in May 1996.

The Corporation currently has a rental stock of 3,345 properties and 160 lock-up garages generating an annual gross rental income of approximately £5,366,000.

This stock will probably be divided into five ballot areas for disposal, reflecting the number of Corporation tenants in established communities within Irvine New Town. These ballot areas range in size from 113 to 1492 properties.

Landlords who are interested in acquiring Corporation housing stock are invited to request an overview package which provides information on acceptable landlords, ballot areas, financial profiles, and the evaluation process. This package will guide prospective landlords in deciding whether to formally register an interest and, if they intend to do so, in which ballot areas.

Formal registrations of interest, on an area by area basis, are required by February 28 1995. Detailed stock profiles, specifications and maps will be forwarded on a ballot area basis to landlords who have registered interest. Landlords will be requested to submit their outline proposals for acquiring stock, based on this detailed specification package, by April 18 1995.

To obtain an overview package, write to, fax, or telephone:  
**David Walker, Chief Housing Manager,**  
**Irvine Development Corporation,**  
**Bridgegate House,**  
**Irvine, Ayrshire,**  
**KA12 8BD, Scotland.**

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## THE TIMES COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

The Times will now be publishing a regular Commercial Property Section to appear on the third Wednesday of every month, including relevant editorial by Christopher Warman.

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# Liverpool plan awaits its fate

Developers hope an edge-of-town scheme will meet planning guidelines. Christopher Warman reports

One of the last big sites on Merseyside awaiting redevelopment has been granted planning consent by Merseyside Development Corporation for a £20 million retail park at Herculeum, a former dock, on the outskirts of Liverpool.

Plans for the proposed Riverside retail park provide for a total of 200,000 sq ft of retail space, a size that means the scheme has to be determined by the Secretary of State for the Environment. His decision is expected soon.

The park, designed by John Seifert, is a joint venture company set up for the purpose. It is being funded by Berkeley Commercial, part of the Berkeley Group plc, and jointly developed by Berkeley Commercial Developments and Capital and Albemarle Properties.

The scheme envisages 11 main retail units, ranging from 7,500 sq ft upwards. The park, to be set in landscaped grounds, will include restaurants, craft workshops, a petrol station and a food store.



The Riverside retail park planned for a former dock, on the outskirts of Liverpool. Its supporters say it will not damage city-centre trade

Robert Tincknell of Berkeley Commercial Developments, who is optimistic about government approval, said he and his colleagues had had to tackle the contentious issue of whether the scheme breached government guidelines on taking trade away from city centres. "We believe it will not have an unfair impact on the vitality and viability of existing shopping centres in Liverpool," he said. "The city centre is strong enough to survive."

An impact study commissioned by Berkeley-C.A.P. concluded that,

taking the market-penetration figure of between 9 and 12 per cent as a measure of the retail impact on the area's shopping facilities, the scheme would have a small effect on shopping patterns and turnover in an expanding market. "Considerable shopping benefits," it said, "will be generated through the attraction of additional shoppers to the area and the promotion of increased competition."

The other issue at stake is transportation and its impact on the environment. A report by W.A.

Fairhurst, the consulting structural and civil engineers, concluded that with more choice in the type of transport available, including special buses, the distance travelled by cars in Liverpool would be cut by 9 per cent, which would reduce exhaust emissions. A new railway station is due to open within five minutes' walk.

The site for the retail park is close to "Pleasure Island", a leisure park built on the site of the 1984 International Garden Festival. With the successful development of

the Liverpool waterfront within the Merseyside Development Corporation regeneration area, including Albert Dock, the Brunswick business park and HM Customs and Excise headquarters at Queen's Dock, the area now has 1,000 new homes, as well as 2,000 firms employing 32,000 staff.

The park is expected to provide 600 permanent jobs, plus a further 300 indirectly. If approved, work will start by the end of the summer, and Riverside should be open for trade by summer 1996.

## MARKET MOVES

### Progress for a retail-leisure park

THE development of Bluewater Park, a 1.6 million sq ft retail and leisure scheme by the M25 at Dartford, Kent, has moved a stage nearer, with a submission by Lend Lease Global Investments, the developer, of a refined plan to Dartford council.

Peter Walickiowski, Lend Lease's managing director, claims Bluewater is the biggest scheme of its kind in Europe. The latest design includes an on-site police station, multiplex cinema and lakeside walks.

● **OVERSEAS** investors will be out in force at Mipim, the international property market, which takes place in Cannes from March 9 to 12. Several French institutions are said to be seeking to cut losses on their portfolios after a difficult year, and investors are likely to go to the fair in the hope of profiting from any sell-offs.

**School sale**

WOODLEE training centre near Egham in Surrey has been sold by the Employment Service to the American Community School for a figure reported to be above the £2 million asking price. Set in more than 16 acres

close to the edge of Windsor Great Park, the former rehabilitation centre includes a mansion dating from around 1876 and includes modern residential and training accommodation.

The American Community School, founded in 1967, has more than 1,800 students and is one of Europe's largest independent schools.

### Grimley change

GRIMLEY J.R. Eve, the property consultant, has decided to change its name to recognise its expansion and increasing international status. Its European corporate branding will be a simple "Grimley, international property advisers". At the same time, Grimley announces the creation of GVA Worldwide Ltd, an international property advisory company.

The company, founded on more than 150 years of combined experience through J.R. Eve, Vigers and Grimley, has developed into a major international practice since mergers in 1988 and 1991. It now has about 700 partners and staff in the UK and Europe, and about 2,500 people through the membership of GVA Worldwide.

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## MEDIA 37

What is the media's message for women?



## ARTS 39-41

The Berlin Film Festival gets off to a slow start



## SPORT 42-48

McColgan up and running for London Marathon

ASBESTOS:  
A COMPANY'S  
DUTY

Page 30

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15 1995

## Trafalgar bid for Northern escapes MMC

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE gloves are off in the first hostile takeover bid for a privatised utility company after Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, gave conditional clearance for the £1.2 billion bid by Trafalgar House for Northern Electric.

Northern, whose shares rocketed £1.10p to £10.81p on the news, is expected to defend itself this week by unveiling incentives for shareholders to remain loyal, including special dividends and share buy-backs. These could be worth well over £1 a share.

The Department of Trade and Industry announcement sparked sharp rises in the shares of other electricity companies, raised hopes of a wave of bids from other predators and brought condemnation from unions and Labour.

Yorkshire, where the 8 per

cent stake built by market-makers at Swiss Banking Corporation, Trafalgar's adviser, is regarded as a loose holding, jumped 73p to 884p. Hanson, which yesterday reported a further stage in its profits recovery, is touted as a possible bidder.

Among regional electricity companies to see their shares rise were Manweb in the North West, up 54p to 854p. Seaboard in the South East, up 28p to 463p, and South West Electricity, up 50p to 854p.

Mr Heseltine, in accordance with the views of the Office of Fair Trading, decided not to refer the offer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. A referral would have stalled the bid in a months-long inquiry. A DTI statement said that "Trafalgar House have given Mr Heseltine assurances to address the regu-

latory concerns" of Professor Stephen Littlechild at OfT, the regulator. Mr Heseltine's decision has, however, flown in the face of advice from Professor Littlechild, who said "on balance" that a reference to the MMC would have been "beneficial".

Trafalgar, in helping Mr Heseltine reach his decision, has made various assurances: "Sufficient financial and management resources" would be made available to Northern under its ownership for it to function;

Professor Littlechild would be given any information he needs to carry out his regulatory functions;

The group will co-operate to ensure appropriate financial separation and independence for Northern;

It will ensure that Northern agrees to amendments to its licence.

Trafalgar and Professor Littlechild started talks over the necessary licence changes. Trafalgar says there will be no difficulty in reaching agreement with the regulator.

Under the bid timetable, Northern has until this Friday to put any relevant new financial information into a defence document, and that day is seen as the most likely for any shareholder incentives to be revealed. Trafalgar has another week to raise its offer, whose cash element, at £10.48, is well below the current Northern share price.

David Morris, chairman of Northern, welcomed a "firm" decision from the DTI, even though Northern had lobbied for a reference. He looked forward to showing shareholders the value of their investment.

Jack Cunningham, Shadow Trade Secretary, said that the decision was "deeply unsatisfactory", while Unison, Britain's largest union, said it was "open house for predators wanting to make a killing out of our electricity industry".

More palpable evidence of union and local anger could come today at an extraordinary meeting in Newcastle of shareholders in Northern to consider the relaxation, called for by Trafalgar, of a 15 per cent limit on ownership.

Pennington, page 27  
Stock Market, page 28

## Arise Sir Gavin and ...



... arise Sir Ronald



Sir Gavin Laird, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Electrical and Engineering Union (top), and Sir Ronald Hampel, chief executive of ICI, received knighthoods at an investiture held yesterday at Buckingham Palace

Pennington, page 27

## Judge awards Lloyd's names interim £210m

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH COURT judge yesterday ruled that more than 3,000 Lloyd's Gooda Walker names should receive £210 million as early payment of their damages awarded in last year's successful action. This is the biggest interim payment in English legal history.

The payment averages £68,500 per name, against an average loss of £200,000.

The judge, Mr Justice Phillips, has yet to rule on total damages names will receive. However, yesterday he said: "The likelihood is that substantially larger sums will be awarded than those that make up my interim payment order." The statement adds weight to the names' argument that the total award could be as high as £504 million, a figure ridiculed by the Lloyd's agents who suggested a sum as little as £37 million.

Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group, said that he was delighted by the judgment, especially as interim awards are at a judge's discretion.

Mr Justice Phillips ordered that the errors and omissions insurers of the 71 Lloyd's agents found negligent in last

October's court action pay the £210 million within 14 days. The award, payment of which the E&O underwriters are expected to try to stall, will be divided among action group members in proportion to losses. Mr Deeny declared the award "great news for the names". He said: "Our losses at Lloyd's are inflicting terrible hardship on many members of the action group and this interim payment brings much closer the day they will finally obtain compensation."

Mr Justice Phillips, in handing down his judgment, said that the E&O underwriters will have to pay interest if they fail to meet the 14-day payment deadline. As an added bonus, he said that interest payments would come from the E&O insurers' pockets, rather than from the E&O cover. This is a disincentive to delaying payment as it is equal to an annual interest bill of more than £18 million.

Lloyd's has renewed its attempt for first claim on any litigation proceeds by seeking a court judgment on whether it can change the terms of names' premium trust deeds.

Poker game, page 29

## Saatchi & Saatchi suing Maurice and Charles

SAATCHI & SAATCHI is suing Maurice and Charles Saatchi for up to £40 million to block their plans for a rival advertising agency. Saatchi & Saatchi hopes to establish a claim over funds paid to the brothers and their private investment company, Hatzone, as a result of an investment in the Adidas sports goods group (Jon Ashworth writes).

The brothers received the money as settlement in a dispute with Robert Louis Dreyfus, former chief execu-

tive of Saatchi & Saatchi. He took a 15 per cent stake in Adidas in 1993 with financial backing from the Saatchis, but they later fell out over the ownership of share options.

The brothers were paid a "substantial" sum to settle the dispute — reportedly up to £40 million. It has been speculated that the money is funding attempts to create a rival agency. Saatchi & Saatchi is expected to argue that the settlement was, in effect, payment for marketing work.

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3071.3	(-9.8)
Yield	4.27%	
FT-SE A&S share	116	
Nikkei	16138.47	(-175.39)
Dow Jones	3963.20	(-1.01)*
S&P Composite	461.27	(-0.28)*

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(6%)
Long Bond	9 3/4%	(8%)
Yield	7.64%	(7.67%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6 1/2%	(6 1/2%)
Libor long gill	101	(100 1/2)

### STERLING

New York	1.5575*	(1.5631)
London	1.5575	(1.5631)
DM	2.3585	(2.3764)
FF	8.1710	(8.2390)
Sfr	1.9907	(2.0059)
Yen	153.80	(154.18)
S index	78.3	(78.8)

### DOLLAR

DM	1.5137*	(1.5210)
FF	5.2446*	(5.2695)
Sfr	1.2781*	(1.2853)
Yen	98.61*	(98.72)
S index	82.4	(82.5)

Tokyo close Yen 98.75

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.75	(\$16.75)
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### GOLD

London close	\$378.95	(\$374.25)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Building fall

Britain's construction industry saw new orders fall sharply last year as deep cuts in public spending on infrastructure and housing compounded falls in private sector investment. The biggest cut occurred in government spending on roads, railways and similar projects, which were 60 per cent down on 1993. Page 26

## Share prices

Technical problems at our supplier of share prices mean that midday prices are shown apart from the closing figures given for the FT-SE 100 stocks in bold. We apologise. Page 30

## Non-executives paid £14,400 for 15 days' work

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANY non-executive board directors earn an average of £14,400 for 15 days' work a year, a survey of corporate pay will reveal today.

The latest findings on top executives' pay came a day after Sir Desmond Pichey, chairman of North West Water, gave evidence about his pay to the Commons' all-party Select Committee on Employment.

The survey, by the pay and benefits consultants Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, shows that the average figure for non-executive board members rises to £18,750 for 15 days in large organisations with more than £600 million turnover.

The study, of a sample of 311 non-executive directors in 102 companies, was completed this month. It shows that a typical non-executive director holds similar positions on four other management boards and 56 per cent also have a full-time job as

an executive director on the board of another company.

Non-executive chairmen earn an average of £33,750 for 30 days' contracted work, the survey shows, with an average figure for large companies as high as £57,000. Some 52 per cent of non-executive chairmen hold a full-time executive position on the board of another company.

About a third of non-executive directors' contracts are fixed-term, with three-quarters of those for three years. But rolling contracts are less common, with only 8 per cent of non-executives employed on that basis.

Andy Christie, SNL remuneration director, says: "On the whole, the fees earned by non-executive directors are roughly equivalent to the going rate for management consultancy services, although they can earn significantly more in large corporations."

## Pound threatens record low

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound could fall to its all-time low of DM2.3147 against the mark and beyond, currency economists predicted yesterday after a day in which concerted selling took sterling through long-standing technical support levels.

The currency traded at DM2.3575 late yesterday, well below the lowest point reached in 1994 of DM2.3710. Analysts said that the pound's situation was not yet a crisis but that a negative momentum, based on worries about the Government's problems, is building.

Some believe it is only a matter of time before sterling hits its all-time low, reached after the pound left the ERM.

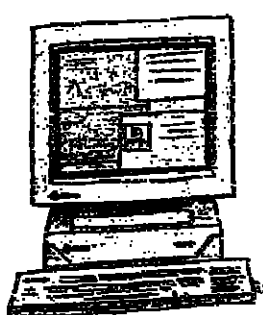
Citibank's forecast for this year predicted that the pound would reach a low of DM2.25, a prediction which had seemed overly pessimistic. Neil MacKinnon, Citibank's senior currency economist, said yesterday: "That looked radical at the time but now looks much more plausible."

Economists are also looking for the pound to weaken against the dollar, despite the

fact that the US currency is struggling itself. The dollar traded at 1.5610 against the pound late yesterday but some are looking for it to appreciate to 1.49. Rumours yesterday that the Bank of England had intervened in sterling's support were unconfirmed. However, the Bank has been more actively talking to currency rooms in the large banks recently in an attempt to ascertain the reasons behind sterling's weakness.

Pennington, page 27

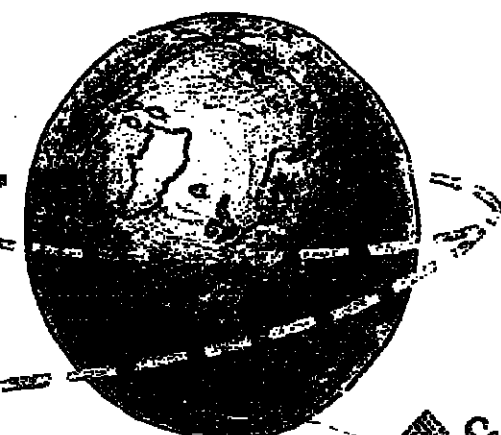
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## AIB debts shrink and profits jump 16%

By Patricia Teahan  
Banking Correspondent

ALLIED IRISH BANKS, the Irish banking and financial services group, said a substantial improvement in its British operations and better performance in Ireland and America helped it to a 16.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to Ir£341.2 million last year.

Bad-debt provisions were significantly lower, falling from Ir£127.6 million to Ir£62.9 million. Tom Mulcahy, AIB's chief executive, said this reflected improvements in credit quality and recovery from recession in the UK and Ireland. Costs were reduced, with total operating expenses down 0.4 per cent to Ir£783.3 million and staff costs down by 2.5 per cent.

The total dividend rises 12.8 per cent to Ir£1.1p, with a Ir£.4p final payment.

Profits in its AIB Bank division, which includes retail and commercial operations in the Irish Republic, Britain and Northern Ireland and Ark Life, its life assurance unit, were 27 per cent higher at Ir£187.5 million. Profits in the British operations were 150 per cent higher at Ir£39 million.

Lending growth in Ireland was 10 per cent higher, with particularly strong demand for home loans. In the US, the bank improved profits 25 per cent to Ir£109.5 million, helped by better credit quality in its First Maryland Bancorp arm and AIB New York.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.20	2.03
Austria Sch	17.66	16.16
Belgium Fr	51.70	47.40
Canada C\$	2.281	2.121
Cyprus Cyp£	0.772	0.717
Denmark Kr	5.33	5.13
Finland Mk	7.84	7.18
France Fr	6.55	6.00
Germany DM	2.52	2.31
Greece Dr	352.00	367.00
Hong Kong \$	12.88	11.88
Ireland Ir£	1.05	0.97
Italy Lit	5,204.1	4,454.1
Japan Yen	2615.00	2480.00
Malta M	188.00	152.00
Netherlands Gld	0.611	0.558
Norway Kr	2.908	2.575
Portugal Esc	10.56	10.16
Spain Ptas	256.50	237.00
Sweden Kr	12.16	11.36
Switzerland Fr	2.13	1.96
Turkey Lira	197.50	182.00
USA \$	1.554	1.524

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Hugh Feeley, group general manager of Allied Irish Banks, left, and Neil Dean, chief finance officer

## Spending cuts compound construction industry woes

By Ross Tieman  
Industrial Correspondent

BRITAIN'S construction industry saw new orders fall sharply last year as deep cuts in public spending on infrastructure and housing compounded falls in private sector investment.

The contraction, which accelerated sharply during the final quarter, was confirmed by official figures published yesterday. The biggest cut occurred in government spending on roads, railways and similar projects, which

was 60 per cent down on 1993.

The figures were described as "very disturbing" by Richard Horton, a spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. "Recent savage cuts in government spending are taking their toll," he said. "Even the private commercial sector, which for the last six months has been an area of hope for the industry, is showing signs of declining activity."

According to provisional figures from the Environment Department, the total volume of new orders received by the

construction industry was 21 per cent down in the final quarter of 1994, compared with the same months of 1993. For the year as a whole, orders, at £21.3 billion, were down 1 per cent in volume terms on the 1993 total.

Environment officials said there was a general decline across almost all sectors in the latter part of the year. New orders in the private housing sector fell 8 per cent between the second and third quarters to a level 4 per cent down, year on year. Public housing and housing association orders

were up 10 per cent in the last quarter, but down 22 per cent, year on year.

Infrastructure orders fell 13 per cent between the second and third quarters to a level 60 per cent below the same months of 1993, while private industrial orders fell 25 per cent in the final quarter of 1993 to a point 8 per cent lower than the previous year.

Even in the private commercial sector, orders fell 12 per cent during the final months of the year to close 9 per cent down, year on year.

The fall in infrastructure spending reflects the scale of government economies, and the failure of the much-vaunted Private Finance Initiative to take up the slack, let alone remedy shortcomings in Britain's transport system, schools and hospitals that have been highlighted by the Confederation of British Industry.

The slowdown in construction will add to widespread concern that - manufacturing apart - the recovery remains weak. Figures from the January Retail Trades survey of the CBI, published yesterday, showed sales in the shops little changed, year on year.

## Mortgage lending slumps 19%

By Robert Miller

MORTGAGE lending slumped 19 per cent in January according to the latest Barclays Bank index.

The drop in monthly figures prompted Garry Skelton, head of Barclays mortgages, to give a warning that "volatility in the housing market has undermined traditional seasonal patterns so levels of activity during the next few

months will be critical". In the year to January 31, lending rose 7.7 per cent.

On a regional basis, the North West "came down with a bump" in January, with a fall of 40 per cent on December's high.

Barclays said that this appeared to have been affected by a very specific downturn in the Liverpool area and that it

was too early to say whether "this change is a reflection of a change in the fortunes for the whole region".

Central and Greater London were the least affected, while Central England was down 24 per cent in January and East Anglia fell 28 per cent. Both areas, however, showed increases on the same period last year.

## Insurance complaints reap £9.5m in rewards

By Robert Miller

CONSUMER complaints to the Insurance Ombudsman increased for the fifth consecutive year, with a record £9.5 million being paid in compensation last year.

The highest individual award, for £167,600, concerned the mismanagement of an investment bond and included a sum for lost interest. The lowest award, for £3, involved the cancellation of a motor policy in mid-term.

The largest category of complaints to Laurie Slade, the Insurance Ombudsman, concerned financial services disputes involving life, pensions and term assurance policies. Nearly 3,000 of the 8,500 cases referred to the ombudsman last year related to financial services. Of these, the selling practices of product providers was the greatest source of dissatisfaction.

Mr Slade, who succeeded Dr Julian Farrand last summer after he was appointed as the new Pensions Ombudsman, said: "The rules of the regulators only provide a minimum standard for product providers. They are looking for a sale and not for a tick beside each item on the rule book list they have done enough. But they should go much further than the minimum. Good faith is a mutual obligation for insurers as much as policyholders."

Of the 7,182 cases closed during the year, about 36 per cent were decided in favour of the policyholder, with 60 per cent of the insurers' decisions being upheld and 4 per cent being withdrawn.

The ombudsman revised the insurers' initial decision in favour of the policyholder in 36 per cent of cases. The reversal of the company's decision in life assurance and investment disputes rose 3 percentage points to 42 per cent.

The ombudsman said that he had stopped processing complaints relating to pension transfers and opt-outs from occupational schemes until further guidelines had been issued by the regulators.

The most common complaints over general insurance concerned motor policies, with 1,123 complaints, and household policies, with 1,695 complaints.

## American retail sales show modest rise

US RETAIL sales rose modestly in January, the Commerce Department said yesterday, an eighth straight monthly rise despite a dip in demand for new cars. Total retail sales were up 0.2 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$193.2 billion after a sharply revised 0.2 per cent gain in December that previously was reported as a 0.1 per cent decline. Sales by new car dealers fell 0.6 per cent in January after a 0.2 per cent December gain. It was the first decline in the key category since a 1 per cent fall last July, officials said.

New cars account for about a fifth of total retail sales, so swings in demand strongly affect the overall monthly figures. Excluding autos, retail sales were up 0.4 per cent in January and rose 0.1 per cent in December. The last time overall retail sales fell was last April. They were flat in May and then began rising in an unbroken string in June. There were reports that auto-dealer inventories were on the rise in January and more dealers began offering discounts, a sign that consumer demand might be starting to weaken.

## Court order on FMI

THE Securities and Investments Board, the chief City regulator, has obtained a High Court order appointing the Official Receiver, Michael Pugh, as provisional liquidator of Financial Management International (FMI) pending an SIB petition for the compulsory winding up of the company. Financial Management International, which was authorised to hold client money, was ordered last month to stop taking any further investment business by Fimbra, its regulator. FMI's creditors are meeting in the City today at Poppleton & Appleby, insolvency practitioners, to consider a creditors' voluntary liquidation.

## Buffet buys Amex stake

AMERICAN EXPRESS said that Warren Buffett has bought nearly 10 per cent of the financial services giant, sending its stock sharply higher. Through Berkshire Hathaway, his holding company and its subsidiaries, Mr Buffett has acquired 9.8 per cent of American Express and indicated he would seek clearance from government regulators to buy more, the company said. An investment by Mr Buffett, who also owns stakes in Coca-Cola, Salomon Brothers, Wells Fargo & Co. and USAir Group, is viewed as a stamp of approval on Wall Street.

## Brent crude exchange

THE International Petroleum Exchange in London and the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) are to launch a mutual offset system for trading Brent crude futures on June 9, it was announced yesterday. Under the arrangement, each contract worth 1,000 barrels of crude oil can be bought or sold in London and Singapore during an extended 18-hour period and positions can be opened and closed on either exchange. Elizabeth Sam, chairman of Simex, said that the agreement would assist in the development of the energy futures market in Asia.

## Volatility hits TR

TR PACIFIC Investment Trust blamed stock market volatility in the Far East last month for wiping £20 million off the value of the £140 million trust. For all of 1994, however, the trust's gross revenue rose to £2.8 million against £2.3 million in 1993. Net assets per share fell by 13.8 per cent from £21.2p to £18.4p. Michael Watt, TR Pacific's manager, said the poor performance of most Far East markets was offset by a high level of investment in the better performing markets of South Korea and Taiwan and a 50 per cent reduction in exposure to Hong Kong. The net dividend was maintained at 0.175p a share.

## Cost of foreign bids

EXPENDITURE on acquisitions overseas by UK companies in the final three months of 1994 rose to £5.5 billion, the highest quarterly total since the third quarter of 1989, according to figures compiled by the Central Statistical Office. For the year as a whole, UK companies spent £15.1 billion, the highest annual figure since 1989, although the number of deals in 1994 was lower than in previous years. Expenditure on acquisitions in the UK by overseas companies slightly increased in value to £1.4 billion, compared with £1.2 billion in the third quarter.

## Watertight warning



OFWAT, the water industry regulator, plans new measures to ensure that diversification by water utilities into other businesses does not harm the core water and sewerage activities. Ian Byatt, left, Director-General of Ofwat, said: "I do not have statutory powers to involve myself in company activities outside the core business... (but companies) are under a duty to me to ringfence the appointed water and sewerage businesses."

THE TIM  
THREE and the Secretary of State for Industry would refer to Mergers less than a few things have Secretary of State for Industry would refer to Mergers less than a few things have Secretary of State for Industry would refer to Mergers less than a few things have

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REUTERS HOLDING international financial information and trading warned shareholders to expect a report on what Peter Job, chief executive, called "national performance". The company's share price of the shares closed at 450p. Reuters reported earnings of £50 million per cent in the year to December 31, 1994. The share price rose from 25p to 450p. "It'll be difficult on this in terms of Mr Job said. Mr Job's earnings well. His basic pay was £22 per cent in 1994. A 50 per cent increase in his basic pay package, including options, to £33. Mr Job declined to comment on this.

Peter Job, chief

Cellnet to grow by £700m  
CELLNET is to spend £700 million on expanding its digital network over the next three years, it was revealed yesterday. The investment, one of the £300 million it spent on the fledgling venture, is aimed at challenging Vodafone's lead in the digital market. It will be funded entirely from Cellnet's own cash flow, a spokesman said. Cellnet, owned by British Telecom and other investors, has the largest analogue network. But only 20,000 of its million subscribers use digital service. Vodafone's 1.6 million customers use digital mobile phones. Cellnet's £700 million will buy 1,400 digital handsets, more than Vodafone has 1,000 and plans to buy 3,500 by the end of 1995.

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IT PAYS TO TALK



## PIA urged to issue board statement

By Robert Miller

LABOUR PARTY officials and the Consumers' Association attacked the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) for not issuing a statement after the regulator held a critical board meeting yesterday to discuss pension pensions mis-selling.

The PIA is due to issue detailed guidance on how pension providers should review the hundreds of thousands of cases where people were wrongly advised to transfer out of occupational schemes and into personal pension plans. The pensions industry faces a possible bill of £3 billion in compensation and costs.

Alistair Darling, Labour's City Affairs spokesman, said: "It is disgraceful that the PIA has still not issued any clear guidelines after so many

months. If the board has made decisions then they should make them public."

"They are supposed to be acting in the interest of consumers, not the pensions companies," Kate Scribbins, head of the money group at the Consumers' Association, said. "Hundreds of thousands of people are concerned that they may have been given the wrong pensions advice. Now they face even further delays before their cases can even begin to be considered."

A PIA spokesman said: "A number of decisions were made at the board meeting, but there will be no announcement." He added that the regulator intended to issue a statement "in the middle of next week".

## City exile can stay in Moscow

FROM RICHARD BEESTON  
IN MOSCOW

A BRITISH businessman wanted for questioning by City of London police over an attempted fraud is living and working in Moscow and has been given permission to stay in Russia for another year.

Andrew Stuart Rooke, the former operations manager at Bayerische Landesbank Girozentrale (BLG), appears to be under little threat of extradition, in spite of a request made through Interpol for his return to Britain.

Mr Rooke, who it has been alleged attempted to defraud

his former employers of £1 million, was expelled by the Securities and Futures Authority, fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,000 for "blatant dishonesty".

His case was forwarded to the City of London police who have sought the assistance of the Russian authorities. There is no extradition agreement between Britain and Russia, although a number of foreigners on the run have recently been caught and deported.

A visit to Mr Rooke's DRM Consulting company yesterday revealed that he is operating as normal in the Russian capital, where he is

still regarded as a respectable businessman. He has installed his offices in a ground floor suite in one of the most prestigious buildings in central Moscow, 10 Shchuseva Street, where the former Soviet leaders Leonid Brezhnev and Konstantin Chernenko once lived.

His Russian staff confirmed that he was in Moscow working as usual but that he refused to be interviewed. "Mr Rooke does not want to say anything at the moment," his assistant said.

Mr Rooke was employed as the financial manager of the luxury Radisson Slavjanskaya Hotel, a joint Russian-American venture. When details of the British investigation be-

came known he was given the choice of returning to London to defend himself or of resigning his post. He resigned his job this summer but was nevertheless kept on as a financial consultant by the hotel's acting director, Umar Dzhabrailov, who secured a new work permit for him which runs to March 1996.

Business associates of Mr Rooke's said that they were surprised by the allegations that had been made against him. "He is articulate," said Russell Wycoff, a public relations consultant who worked with Mr Rooke at the hotel. "He is very polished, very intelligent, he has a high financial education and sells that to people."

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□ History lesson for Northern □ Fighting shy of the "feel-bad" factor □ Waging war over low pay

## A game of monopoly

THREE and a half years ago the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry intervened in a bid by Trafalgar House, saying he would refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless Trafalgar was prepared to talk turkey and remedy the adverse effects of the acquisition. Three and a half years later, a few things have changed. The Secretary of State's successor has a far grander job title. Trafalgar has a new crew at the helm after several financial collapses, the "adverse effects" of that acquisition turning out to be mostly on its own balance sheet.

The President of the Board of Trade has now decided to allow through a rather more significant Trafalgar deal — the first bid, hostile or otherwise, for a privatised utility. Trafalgar has to talk turkey again and reach agreement with an industry regulator whose own advice has in this case been ignored.

But the emphasis has been turned around. There will be no debate on public policy, on the rightness or otherwise of ownership of such a crucial part of British industry. The floodgates have been opened for any outside purchaser, a prospect recognised by the leap in share prices for the other regional companies and a less pronounced advance for their water counterparts.

Flip back three and a half

years. Trafalgar stumbled initially in its purchase of Davy Corporation because of the problem of "the provision of large diameter bored piling in the UK".

Fast-forward to today, and it is clear that the provision of power to factories, hospitals, schools and homes is a rather more trivial matter than that of bored piling. The regulator, Professor Littlechild, is now left to pick up the pieces and obtain what concessions he can.

Trafalgar has what it wants and does not need to bargain too hard. Northern can still be operated as a see-through business with the necessary transparency of accounts to allow Professor Littlechild to include it in his periodic price reviews. Northern shareholders, those not sufficiently unnerved by the uncertainty to have sold out, will get in cash four and a third times what they paid for their shares on privatisation if the bid succeeds at this level. They may well hold out for more.

If the professor and Trafalgar cannot reach agreement, he can still refer the whole matter to the

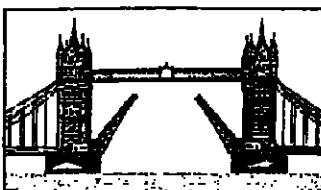
MMC. Whether Trafalgar will have won by that time, and just what would happen then, is unclear. The DTI (for reasons one can only speculate on — back-bench pressure? The desire to punish unpopular power chiefs by taking their businesses away? Other murkier political motives?) has ducked the opportunity of a debate on a matter of vital public importance. Mr Heseltine was on Northern's home patch before the weekend. He showed an admirable sense of self-preservation in choosing to leave the area well before making yesterday's announcement.

### Rate rise not politic

THE markets widely assumed yesterday that the Bank of England would recommend even higher interest rates to defend the pound if it continues to slide. But the case for 1980s-style exchange rate management through monetary tightening has been discredited.

The Bank has learned from the

### PENNINGTON



debate of sterling's departure from the exchange-rate mechanism that there is not a high enough level of rates or an effective amount of intervention which will prevent a currency from sliding if that is what the markets want.

Memories of White Wednesday are fresh enough for the Bank not to indulge in any such hopeless brinkmanship with the markets and Eddie George has stressed repeatedly since autumn 1992 that a stable exchange rate happens because of stable economic conditions, not the other way around. Free-floating is in fashion.

The Bank is also sophisticated enough to know that sterling's woes are political, not economic.

Raising rates purely to defend the pound in the current atmosphere could be dangerously counterproductive. The Bank's markets team has been sounding out dealing rooms around the City to check the reasons for sterling's woes and the answer has been resounding: politics.

A rise in base rates would only exacerbate these political concerns because it would turn a lack of "feel-good" into full-blown "feel-bad". That in turn would undermine the pound. In addition, higher rates risk unbalancing the recovery to no effect. Higher rates would hit domestic demand which is already weakening and have little effect on the tradeable part of the economy where any incipient inflation is showing up.

Even on inflation grounds, a sliding pound does not send a simple signal. Most crucial is its rate against the dollar because of the effect this would have on dollar-denominated commodity prices. This week's producer input prices figures highlighted the threat of imported inflation.

But so far sterling's weakness has been most pronounced

against the mark. As long as the dollar struggles as much as the pound, the Bank may not feel too concerned.

### Generating minimum light

THE minimum wage debate is not generating much light on either side. The Labour Party, dedicated to cutting unemployment, cannot square it with the inevitable fall in demand that a rise in low-end wages would bring. Instead, it has tacitly dropped the ambition of bringing in a national minimum high enough to alleviate poverty significantly. Indeed, a universal floor would have to be too low to help many in low-paid services because it would also cover industries just hanging on against competition from low-wage developing countries. If it were decently high, it would either compress differentials and incentives to train or push up the whole wage structure, leading to much bigger job losses.

In his new IEA pamphlet, *The Minimum Wage: no way to help*

the poor, Deepak Lal neatly exposes such weaknesses and the subtle case that he sees as atavistic impulses dressed up as "nirvana economics". But he falls into a different trap. He argues that, if the free market delivers wages that society considers too low, it is more economically efficient to subsidise the incomes of the poor. Yet free market economists rail equally, and more justly, against the economic evils of the permanently high tax burden this second-best solution entails.

The pragmatic test for low-level minimum wages is whether they allow the tax burden to be cut. Free market economists also fail to explain why, if a free labour market delivers the best economic results, they reckon it can only work efficiently with a pool of unemployed.

### Charitable trading

A GATHERING of big City names has agreed to donate a fixed sum for every bargain recorded on Topic on Red Nose Day, and other charitably minded firms are likely to follow suit, since this is also a smart way of boosting the stock market's lamentable trading volumes. All Comic Relief needs are company bosses to donate some of their share options. That at least would prevent some red face days.

## Reuters warns of leaner times after fat profits

By ERIC REGULY

REUTERS HOLDINGS, the international financial information and trading group, warned shareholders not to expect a repeat this year of what Peter Job, the chief executive, called an "exceptional" performance in 1994.

The outlook shaved 8p off the price of the shares, which closed at 438½p.

Reuters reported pre-tax earnings of £510 million, up 16 per cent, in the financial year to December 31. Earnings per share climbed 20 per cent to 21.7p and turnover, including revenue from last year's acquisitions, rose 23 per cent to £2.31 billion.

"It'll be difficult to improve on this in terms of growth," Mr Job said.

Mr Job's earnings rose as well. His basic pay was boosted by 32 per cent, to £400,000, in 1994. A 50 per cent performance bonus took his total pay package, excluding share options, to £600,000.

Mr Job defended his salary, noting that earnings per share

are up 58 per cent since he took the job in 1991. His pay was set by a remuneration committee of outside directors.

Reuters is less optimistic about 1995 partly because of turmoil in certain financial markets, such as Mexico's, which may have some effect on clients' purchasing decisions.

However, Mr Job did not predict a dramatic decline in orders and he said sales of some products had been strong recently. Information-management systems have been especially buoyant.

Reuters reported double-digit growth in all three of its main business areas, transaction and dealing products, information and media.

Insinet, the electronic brokerage that operates in North America, Europe and Asia, and the Dealing 2000 programme for foreign exchange, recorded the strongest growth in the transactions division.

Not all divisions are profit-

able. Quotron, the screen-based price information system that Reuters purchased from Citicorp of New York last year, is still posting losses and will not break even for two more years.

Mr Job said another share buyback — the last was in late 1993 — was unlikely even though the company was flush with cash.

Reuters finished the year with £534 million in its till, in spite of spending £125 million on acquisitions, an increase of £84 million over the previous year.

The company wants to sink the money in its existing businesses and possibly additional acquisitions. It would like to develop different revenue streams, such as business-information systems for corporations, but will not buy unrelated businesses.

Reuters is increasing its final dividend by 23 per cent, to 8p.

Tempus, page 28



Peter Job, chief executive, described last year's performance as exceptional

### Cellnet to grow by £700m

CELLNET is to spend £700 million on expanding its digital network over the next three years (Eric Reguly writes).

The investment, on top of the £300 million it has spent on the fledgling service, is aimed at challenging Vodafone's lead in the digital market. It will be funded entirely from cash flow, a spokesman said.

Cellnet, owned by British Telecom and Securicor, claims to have the largest analogue network. But only 20,000 of its 1.61 million subscribers use its digital service. Vodafone says that about 130,000 of its 1.68 million customers use digital mobile phones.

Cellnet's £700 million will buy 1,400 digital base stations, more than doubling capacity. Vodafone has 1,700 and plans to have 3,500 by the end of 1996.

### Chemicals fuel Hanson's leap

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

SURGING prices in the chemicals industry helped Hanson, the acquisitive industrial conglomerate, to lift profits by 58 per cent, to £272 million, in the three months to December 31.

Profits last time were held back by the strike at several of Hanson's American coal mines, which cost £66 million. Derek Bonham, Hanson's chief executive, said, however, that virtually all of the group's business had reported better profits and that Quantum, the chemicals business bought in 1992, had shown "outstanding performance".

The only businesses that failed to improve profits were Suburban Propane, in the US, whose sales suffered due to a mild start to the winter, and Cavenham, the forest products subsidiary, with profits static after a strong rise earlier.

Imperial Tobacco, Hanson's cigarette subsidiary, traded

strongly as wholesalers stocked up on cigarettes after the two Budgets in November. Overall, the group's turnover rose by 10 per cent, to £3.2 billion. The quarterly dividend is held at 3p, due on April 6. Earnings per share rose by 60 per cent, to 4p.

Mr Bonham warned investors that the group did not expect to sustain the rate of growth for the rest of the year because the recovery of many businesses was beginning to slow down. "But, with generally improved volumes and margins, the outlook is extremely positive," he said.

The group has been suggested as a possible bidder for an electricity company, since Trafalgar House bid for Northern Electric, but yesterday a Hanson spokesman refused to comment on acquisition plans.

Tempus, page 28

## Embattled Warburg gets a senior new recruit

SG WARBURG yesterday made its first high-profile appointment since it was plunged into crisis last week with the departure of key staff and the resignation at the weekend of Lord Cairns, its chief executive, (Patricia Teahan writes).

John Holmes, until last week head of sales at Credit Lyonnais Laing, is joining Warburg with the same job title.

Sir David Scholey, chairman of Warburg, who on Monday cancelled his retirement and took over the chief executive's role, is heading a new investment banking executive committee of five. The committee met yesterday to discuss how to revise the Warburg strategy to present a viable policy for the future.

Mr Holmes was formerly head of equities at Morgan Grenfell, though the business was closed down, and held the same post at Morgan Stanley.

He takes over from joint heads James Leigh Pemberton, who left to join CSEB, and George Pilkington, who remains in equity sales.

Meanwhile, David Burnett, an SG Warburg troubleshooter, has emerged as a front runner for a place on the firm's board in June.

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# Electrical storm could follow Trafalgar ruling

IT LOOKS AS though open season has finally been declared among the electricity distributors after the Department of Trade and Industry's decision to allow the £1.2 billion bid from Northern Electric to proceed.

The speculators now expect other bids to follow in the sector as some of the big industrial companies begin flexing their financial muscle.

Yorkshire, 73p higher at 884p, is favourite within the Square Mile to receive the next bid approach and with good reason. Swiss Bank Corporation, which is acting as adviser to Trafalgar, has already established an 8 per cent holding in the shares. Hanson is seen as the most likely suitor.

All this speculation was not lost on the other Recs which enjoyed a sharp mark-up before closing below their best of the day, but still boasting double figure gains. East Midlands closed 23p higher at 789p, Eastern was 26p higher at 730p, London 32p at 761p, Manweb 54p at 854p, Midlands 43p at 802p, Norweb 44p at 857p, Seaboard 26p at 463p, South West 46p at 869p, South Wales 50p at 854p, and Southern 37p at 775p.

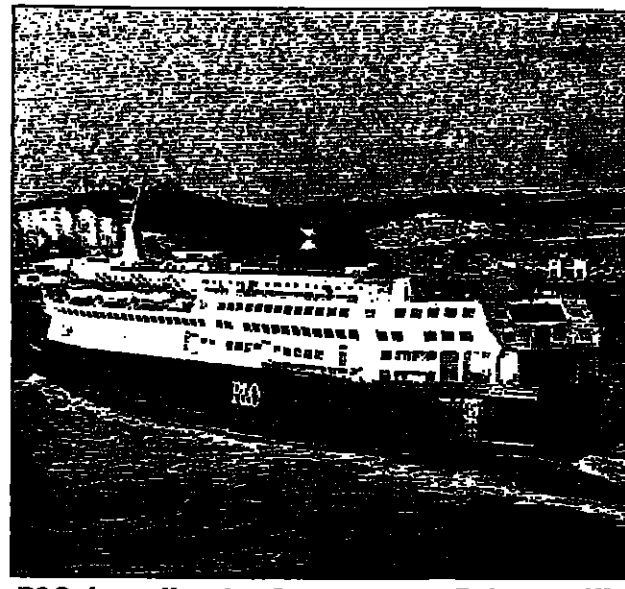
Shares of Northern Electric reacted with a leap of 112p to £10.87 to news of the clearance by the DTI.

The department made its decision after receiving advice from the Office of Fair Trading and obtaining assurances from Trafalgar that it will address regulatory concerns of the Director General of Electricity Supply.

Northern continued to urge shareholders to reject the bid from Trafalgar and claimed it would be issuing some important news soon. David Morris, the chairman, told shareholders he looked forward to demonstrating the value of their investment.

It seems the gloves are ready to come off as Northern strives to retain its independence. Brokers are convinced that Trafalgar will be forced to increase its terms if it remains committed to winning the day. Trafalgar rose 3p to 69p.

Worries about inflation and the possibility of another rise in interest rates continued to hold back the rest of the equity market. Fund managers were in a cautious mood ahead of today's inflation and unemployment numbers as well as



P&O shares dipped as Eurotunnel unveiled new tariffs

being unsettled by renewed weakness in the pound. Leading shares opened lower worried by the latest CBI distributive trades survey.

After trading in narrow limits for much of the day, the FT-SE 100 index finished 9.8 points down at 3,071.3. By contrast the FT-SE index of 250 shares rose 16.7 at 3,462 reflecting the activity among

British Data Management continued to nudge towards its year's high with a rise of 3p to 201p amid whispers of a bid. Speculators are talking of an agreed bid of 250p a share from rival Hays, unchanged at 298p. Word is one sizeable shareholder has already indicated interest in an offer.

the utilities. Turnover improved to 710 million shares.

One casualty of the current investor apathy is Albright & Wilson, the chemical company, which returns to the stock market any day. Its financial advisers yesterday slashed the offer price from 170p to 150p.

Cross-Channel operators appear to be drifting towards an all-out price war after

come on stream. It may be only a matter of time before they announce a new round of price cuts. One thing is for sure, margins are likely to be the first casualty. P&O finished 6p down at 594p, while Eurotunnel rose 4p to 296p.

Recd International fell 23p to 737p after some negative comments from Lehman Brothers, the broker. It is believed to have told clients

that the shares were 10 per cent overvalued.

Profit-taking left BP 6p cheaper at 420p after the group weighed in with a bumper rise in full-year figures and a rise in the final quarter dividend.

Signs of a slowdown in growth left Reuters 8p off at 439p. Pre-tax profits last year climbed 16 per cent to £510 million but the company said that revenue growth would be slower in 1995.

A better than expected first-quarter performance from Hanson lifted the shares 15p to 244p. Pre-tax profits were 58 per cent up at £272 million after a strong performance from its Quantum chemicals business. However, chief executive Derek Bonham was quick to make the point that the group would not maintain this sort of growth throughout the rest of the year.

Sutcliffe Speakman tumbled 10p to 17p after it gave warning that profits for the full year would be significantly below expectations. Brokers had forecast a final outcome of £1.6 million against £1.1 million last time. The group's carbon operation has been hit by a volatile market and supply shortages of certain base materials, while its Croshaw division has been hurt by contract delays.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts attracted a few cheap buyers first thing in the belief that the previous day's selling had been overdone. But investor enthusiasm continued to be held back by worries about

inflation and further rises in interest rates. There was also a certain amount of caution ahead of today's inflation figures.

The Bank of England has confirmed plans to issue £2 billion of Treasury 8½ per cent 2005 at the next auction.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt firmed £1/16 to £101 as 65,500 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 hardened a couple of ticks to £94 1/16, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unchanged at £97 1/32.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares gave up their modest gains by midday and were in a holding pattern ahead of important January figures due tomorrow, analysts said. The Dow Jones industrial average was 1.01 points behind at 3,953.2.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	7953.20 (+1.01)
S&P Composite:	481.27 (+0.38)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average:	18138.47 (+175.59)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng:	7862.67 (+112.15)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index:	413.97 (+0.70)
Sydney:	
ASX:	1834.8 (+11.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX:	2133.24 (+16.29)
Singapore:	
SEAC:	2089.07 (+4.05)
Brussels:	
General:	7099.96 (+4.11)
Paris:	
CAC-40:	1850.09 (+5.78)
Zurich:	
SMI:	633.70 (+0.70)
London:	
FT 100:	3071.3 (+9.8)
FTSE Mid 250:	3462.0 (+16.7)
FTSE Europe 100:	1345.14 (+2.30)
FT A-All-Share:	N/A
FT Non Financials:	N/A
FT Gold Mines:	203.2 (+0.6)
FT Food & Bev:	109.92 (+0.22)
FT Govt Sec:	90.66 (+0.05)
Bargains:	22917
SEAQ Volume:	625.1m
USM (Chicago):	147.89 (+0.18)
US:	1.5568 (+0.0070)
German Mark:	2.3562 (+0.0181)
Exchange Index:	783.3 (+0.3)
Bank of England official call:	1.2465
ECU:	1.2668
LSMR:	1.2668
RPI:	146.0 Dec (2.9%) Jan 1997-100

## RECENT ISSUES

Bath Press (10)	13 1/2
Lazard Birla Ida	54 1/2
MCIT S Cap (35)	32
MCIT S Inc (35)	36
MHSM Lloyds Inv (100)	81
Pentec 01	90
Wessex Trust	11 1/2
Woodchester Units	125

## RIGHTS ISSUES

BTP n/p (225)	22
Bath Press n/p (10)	31
Cadbury Schweb n/p (110)	7
Nati Home Lns n/p (110)	1

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISBS:	
Lloyds:	586p (+12 1/2)
Whitbread:	534p (+5 1/2)
GKN:	584p (+6 1/2)
Unilever:	1180p (+10 1/2)
Reckitt & Colman:	852p (+7 1/2)
General Accident:	548p (+5 1/2)
THORPE:	1051p (+1 1/2)
Smithkline:	496p (+1 1/2)
Zeneca:	903p (+1 1/2)
SG Warburg:	710p (+4 1/2)
FALLS:	
HSBC:	651p (-13p)
B&CE:	280p (-8p)
Canada:	240p (-8p)
Redland:	440p (-5p)
ICI:	723p (-11p)
Inchcape:	294p (-8p)
BAT:	448p (-8p)
SEB:	283p (-4p)
THORPE:	528p (-5p)
Reckitt & Colman:	852p (-5p)
Pearson:	579p (-5p)
Read Int:	737p (-22p)
J Sainsbury:	419p (-3p)
Boots:	481p (-4p)
Reuters:	438p (-8p)
BP:	419p (-7p)
Ajo Wiggins:	226p (-6p)
MEPC:	385p (-4p)

Major Changes are closing prices

## TEMPUS

### Job's worth it

REUTERS' financial achievements give the group the self-confidence to tackle even the thorniest issue of executive pay head-on. There are not many companies these days that would brazenly announce a 32 per cent pay rise for their chief executive in their preliminary statement. Most would hope to bury it in the annual report. Then again, there are not many company chiefs who can point to 58 per cent growth in earnings in four years to justify a 60 per cent rise in their pay.

The curse of successful companies is that financial markets always demand even greater achievements. The City has grown accustomed to the rapid growth of its chief information provider and was profoundly unimpressed by the 23 per cent rise in Reuters' revenues.

Admittedly, the group's operating margins

slipped by 0.4 of a percentage point, but that was almost inevitable after the group bought up the self-confident businesses such as Telnetron and Quotron last year. The growth of Instinet, the equity dealing service that many questioned at its launch, is now so rapid that its margins are suffering.

Reuters was wise to warn the market that its growth may slow this year. Its revenues are linked to the volatile cycles in the financial markets, lagging behind them by perhaps a year. As investment banks cut their capital spending and lay off staff, Reuters' revenues will suffer. That cyclicality is becoming more pronounced as Reuters' transaction products expand. However, the group's core markets are still growing long-term, and Reuters shows no sign of relinquishing market leadership.

## B Steel/GKN

THE City has been waiting at least four years for GKN to sell its stake in UES to British Steel, ever since GKN declared that it wanted to pull out of metal manufacturing. The business was too cyclical for GKN's liking and had little in common with the rest of its engineering and industrial services businesses.

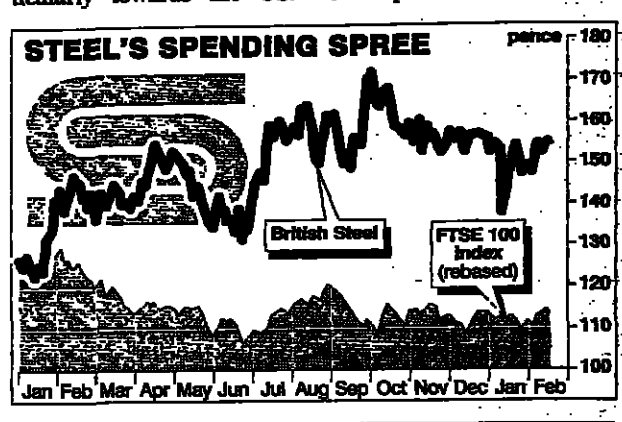
In the event, the price that GKN has received is barely respectable, at a 39 per cent discount to net assets. The company is likely to make at least £30 million this year, so the exit p/e multiple barely scrapes into double figures.

However, GKN knew from the start that there was only one feasible buyer for the stake, so British Steel could dictate terms. GKN feels relieved that it was able to offload the stake at any price before the next economic downturn.

The acquisition is the lat-

## STEEL'S SPENDING SPREE

With negligible gearing, British Steel has the scope for this and much more. It seems particularly keen on further investment in south and south-east Asia, for example. Such expansion should be welcomed by investors since it reduces the group's exposure to subsidised European markets. The faster it does that, before European output once again outstrips demand, the better.



## Hanson

FIRST-QUARTER results from Hanson are rarely informative. No balance sheet, no breakdown of the businesses, and only a couple of paragraphs of a trading statement. Investors must draw their own conclusions.

What was clear yesterday was that the headline result of a 58 per cent growth in profits was flattened by a series of one-off events. Last year's profits were held back by the strike at Peabody's coal mines which cost £66 million. This year's earnings were boosted by perhaps £12 million from the twin budgets which enlivened the cigarette trade.

Underlying growth looks closer to 10 per cent. More than half was generated by Quantum Chemical, thanks to the storming rise in polyethylene prices in the past six months. Few industries have recovered as dramatically from the recession as chemi-

## cal. The retained earnings

from the quarter should have pushed Hanson's gearing below 50 per cent, and the company is already back in the thick of takeover gossip. Hanson's name is repeatedly linked with Yorkshire Electricity. This would improve its domestic earnings base, but leave the company beholden to a regulator. In the past, Hanson has always done what was least expected, and there is no reason why it should conform to market wisdom now.

## BP

HIGH in the war-torn Caucasus Mountains lies the key to BP's future. With the gradual fall-off in North Sea production, BP and its kind must look elsewhere for growth.

The group confirmed yesterday its robust recovery. BP has laid out comfortable financial targets for 1996, but the question remains which

## international opportunities

the group will use its resources to pursue.

David Simon, the chief executive, emphasises that even with oil prices expected in the \$16-\$18 a barrel range, no project would be approved for development unless it worked at \$14 a barrel. He also rules out a dash for growth saying the aim was to "live in a deflating world rather than an inflating one".

BP needs to spend \$3.5 billion a year just to maintain itself and aims to spend between \$4 billion and \$4.5 billion this year. Favourite projects appear to be a chemicals plant in China and retail opportunities in Eastern Europe. Negotiations over the oil field in the Caspian Sea, however, remain dogged by frequent changes of Russian plans. The pipeline to get the oil out of it, it seems, go almost anywhere.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE				ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) CRUDE OILS (60ppm FOB)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
COCOA				Brent Physical				WHEAT		BARLEY	
Mar	1051-1052	Nov	1078-1079			17.00	+0.15	(Mar 1/2)		(June 1/2)	
May	1049-1050	Jan	1080-1080	Brent 15 day (Apr)		16.75	+0.15	May		Oct 25	
Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	Brent 3 day (Apr)		16.75	+0.15	May		Nov 30	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	May		Sep 10	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1110-1110	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jan 10	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 10	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 10	
May	1046-1047	Jul	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Feb 10	
Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 10	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 10	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 10	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 10	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 10	
May	1046-1047	Jul	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Feb 11	
Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 11	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 11	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 11	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 11	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 11	
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Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 12	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 12	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 12	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 12	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 12	
May	1046-1047	Jul	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Feb 13	
Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 13	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 13	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 13	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 13	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 13	
May	1046-1047	Jul	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Feb 14	
Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 14	
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Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 14	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 14	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 14	
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Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 15	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 15	
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Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 15	
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Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 16	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 16	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 16	
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Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 17	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 17	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 17	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 17	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 17	
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Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 18	
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Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 18	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 18	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 18	
May	1046-1047	Jul	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Feb 19	
Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 19	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 19	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 19	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 19	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 19	
May	1046-1047	Jul	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Feb 20	
Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 20	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 20	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 20	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 20	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 20	
May	1046-1047	Jul	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Feb 21	
Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 21	
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Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 21	
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Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 22	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 22	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 22	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 22	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 22	
May	1046-1047	Jul	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Feb 23	
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Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 23	
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Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 25	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 25	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 25	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 25	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 25	
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Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 26	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 26	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 26	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 26	
May	1046-1047	Jul	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Feb 27	
Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 27	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 27	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 27	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 27	
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Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 28	
Jan	1046-1047	Mar	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Oct 28	
Mar	1046-1047	May	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Dec 28	
May	1046-1047	Jul	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Feb 29	
Jul	1046-1047	Sep	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Apr 29	
Sep	1046-1047	Nov	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Jun 29	
Nov	1046-1047	Jan	1080-1080	W Texas Inters (Apr)		16.35	+0.25	Nov		Aug 29	
Jan	1046-										



## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Life after Warburgs

THEY go from Warburgs. They arrive at Warburgs. And there is life after Warburgs. From Northumbria comes news of Simon Hayes, who left Warburg's Tokyo office last November, where for three years he was head of research, and who has re-emerged in his native England, pursuing his passion for genealogy. Hayes, rated number one in the *Excel* survey while at James Capel in the years 1986-90, has so far traced the family roots back to 1680. Hayes recounts that he left Warburgs after "a clash over the management succession". The genealogist adds: "As other senior Warburg staff might say, I am happily spending more time with the family".

### Leaving ABN

MORE musical chairs in the City include the departure from ABN Amro Moore Covent of Gary Tiersan, 31, head of the four-person proprietary trading division. The division carries on, the broker says.

### Sun forever

THE sun will never set on English Trust, the corporate finance and investment management adviser, which today will announce the formation of an Indo-Asian division at its London office that will sweep the sub-continent, the Far East and China.



### On the mend

CITY friends will be pleased to learn that Lord Weir is making a steady recovery after an horrific car crash outside Glasgow last September which left him with various broken limbs. He is managing at least one day a week at Weir's head office, and has been to board meetings at BICC. Much to the annoyance of the partridge, Lord Weir has even been shooting — "but from a sedentary position", he adds.

### New post

JOHN HARGREAVES, once a Shell man, and latterly the corporate finance director (planning) at Barclays Bank, has a new post. He has joined strategic management consultants, The Ciba Group, in charge of risk management. Hargreaves, finance director and company secretary for three years at London Underground, says: "I still travel by Tube. But now I have to pay full fare".

### Laphroaig award

READERS are reminded that a case of Laphroaig ten-year-old malt whisky given by Allied Distillers is on offer each month, at our discretion, to the source of the most informative/entertaining/newsworthy City Diary item published. Our latest award goes to Leslie James Smith who recently retired after 51 years in the City from private client broker Brewin Dolphin. In all his years in the Square Mile, Smith insisted his name was spelt with two "f"s. Laphroaig should help Mr Smith see how to spell.

COLIN CAMPBELL

# Poker game will determine future of divided Lloyd's

An out-of-court settlement of legal actions now looks the only way out, says Sarah Bagnall

THE future of Lloyd's of London is being determined by a game of poker. The key players — names, Lloyd's ruling council and the errors and omissions insurers — are playing their cards close to their chests, and are desperately trying to guess the hands of their opponents. The stakes are high — either Lloyd's and the insurers reach a negotiated settlement with the thousands of litigating names or the 306-year-old insurance market's future is in doubt.

More than 17,000 names are suing a mass of Lloyd's agencies to try to recover more than £3 billion of insurance losses. The settlement is no longer just a desirable outcome for Lloyd's. It is a necessity. Lloyd's has a solvency problem, and an out-of-court settlement of the mass of legal actions looks like the only way out. It has taken months for Lloyd's top brass to stop masquerading as claims and admit that there could be a problem with the society's financial security. David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, when confronted with the issue by MPs last week, admitted as much.

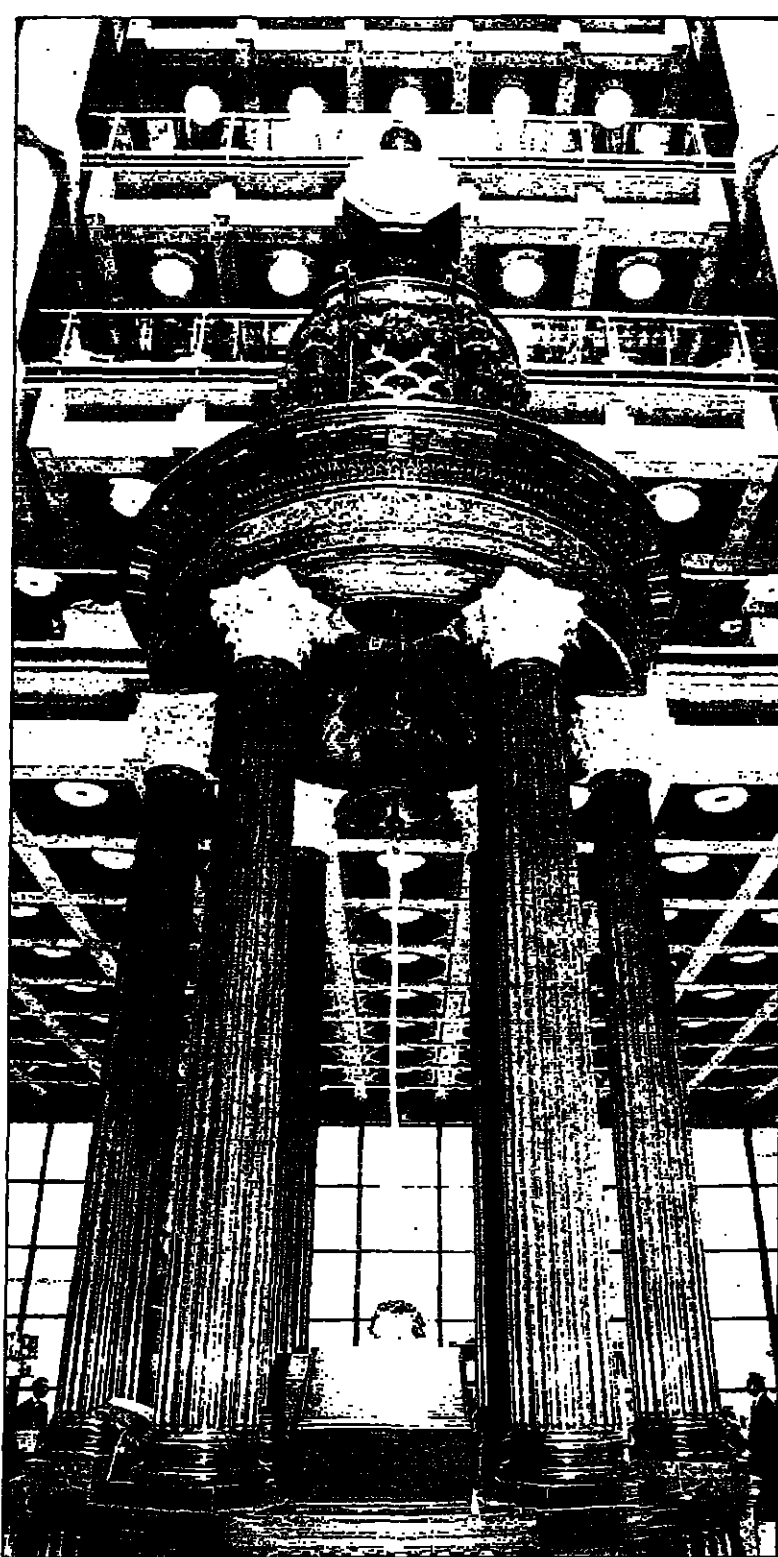
Each autumn, Lloyd's has to pass two Department of Trade and Industry solvency tests. The first — assets against projected claims — is the easier of the two, and little doubt exists over Lloyd's ability to pass it. The second, harder one, is conducted at a name's level. Each name has to show that their underwriting assets at Lloyd's are sufficient to meet their underwriting liabilities. It is this second test that Mr Rowland admits is troublesome.

The cynics suggest that Lloyd's only succeeded in passing this test last year because the DTI allowed Lloyd's to include as assets £600 million that had been reserved twice to cover E&O claims. The rumour is that the DTI is reconsidering this position. A settlement would have the benefit of naturally unwinding this and other so-called "double counts", easing the strain on solvency.

This May, Lloyd's is set to reveal yet another round of losses — estimates of which are creeping steadily towards the £1.5 billion mark. There is a further £2 billion of uncalculated losses from previous years — payment of which is doubtful, given names' new-found reluctance to part with any more cash. On top, there is £830 million that names have refused to pay up.

The names' hopes of receiving a sizeable offer have been buoyed in recent months by last year's High Court victory by the Gooda Walker Action Group. The action group estimates that this success is worth £504 million, of which £210 million must, a High Court judge ruled yesterday, be paid within 14 days.

Lloyd's is now in the throes of trying to broker a deal between the names



The Lutine Bell at Lloyd's, the 306-year-old insurance market now at risk

and the E&O insurers, who provided the cover for the agencies being sued. It is Lloyd's second attempt. The first offer of £900 million was overwhelmingly rejected in February 1993, partly because some action groups believed they would receive more from the courts. This is a possibility, given the £210 million interim payment awarded yesterday to the Gooda Walker Action Group, compared to its £220 million share of the last £900 million offer.

The main reason that the offer foundered was because it failed to offer names finality. They would receive a certain sum of money and hand over their rights to litigation without knowing what the future held. For the

thousands of names who insured asbestos and pollution risks, there was no doubt that the future held years of crippling losses, but the extent of these debts was not quantifiable. The lack of any "cap" on their future losses was unacceptable.

The poker players' hands are not known — nor are their game plans — but there is no shortage of guessing and conjecture. The jockeying for position, the adeptly placed word in the right ear at the right time, is likely to continue for a couple more weeks and then the cards are due to be laid out on the table. Until then, no detailed negotiations can begin.

The E&O insurers are said to have

given Lloyd's a glimpse of their hands. Don Carey, representing the lead E&O underwriters, flew in from South Africa for a high-level meeting with Lloyd's last Friday. The meeting, on the 12th floor of the Lloyd's building, was said to include a discussion on how much the insurers and reinsurers would be willing to contribute towards the offer. Although no details are known, the names' camp believes that the contribution could be as high as £1 billion. The E&O insurers offered about £400 million towards the last offer — an amount ridiculed by names as being way short of the estimated £1.2 billion of insurance cover available to meet litigants' successful legal actions.

The contribution is likely to significantly exceed the £400 million because, since the first offer, the Gooda Walker action group has won its court action, although the ruling is being appealed against. As a result of the judgement, the insurers have been able to turn to their reinsurers and encourage them to join the settlement party, bolstering the pot.

Meanwhile, Lloyd's of London is busily doing its sums to ascertain how much it can contribute towards the offer — and, most importantly, whether it can structure the resulting deal to include a cap.

The last offer included £400 million from the Lloyd's central fund, but no consensus is emerging as to what Lloyd's ruling council will agree to provide this time round. It is believed, however, that a decision will be reached in the next couple of weeks.

Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, has met each of the 44 action groups — individually — to discuss what their needs and desires are. The answer he received over and over was "We want a cap". This demand is causing a rumour within Lloyd's.

The ruling council is divided. Some council members think that a cap is pointless because it effectively already exists as names' assets are limited. Furthermore, the growing incidence of names' refusal to pay their debts means that a natural cap is emerging. Others argue that the council has to be realistic and accept that others may be let off the hook in spite of the fact that they themselves have had to pay all their losses.

The council also has to decide whether the offer should be extended to non-litigants, who were included in the first offer. It increasingly looks unlikely that this will be the case in the second offer. Lloyd's is considering splitting the offer in two — making an initial offer to names on spiral syndicates, followed later by a separate offer to long-tail names. This would be timed to coincide with the setting up of Equitas, a reinsurance company being established to take over the liabilities of policies written in 1985 and before.

In reality, the negotiations have yet to start. The players are at the table and the cards have been dealt, but the game has yet to commence. Names argue that the offer would have to be in the region of £1.3 billion to be acceptable and would have to include a cap. It is now a question of how the protagonists play their hands.



ANTHONY HARRIS

## Earthquake shocks in Broadgate

What, you may ask, has the Kobe earthquake possibly got to do with it? If Warburg was the only international bank in trouble, Lord Cairns would provide no more than a tragic anecdote: ambitious institution leaps for a high crag, misses, and falls. In fact, Warburg has much prestigious company. News, rumour or credit downfalls affect many major houses. Even the London clearers warn, as they announce sharply increased profits thanks to lower provisions, of hard pounding.

Meanwhile, Sumitomo has become the first of the major Japanese banks to come clean, or at least cleaner, about past losses: some \$3 billion of new provisions have wiped out its whole earnings; the Japanese authorities judge that their system is now strong enough to start revealing what it really lost in the bubble economy. The corresponding losses in New York and London are now history, but the recovery has bred its own follies in bonds, short yen positions, and now emerging markets. And it is now becoming apparent that all these disasters are interconnected, part of a general disruption in the global market — one which the earthquake may well prolong.

The Tokyo crash provided the initial shock: it so undermined Japanese financial self-confidence that the orderly export of Japanese capital to world markets, necessary to finance the Japanese current account surplus, became hesitant and then virtually stopped. By 1993, the US and Britain, both in large current account deficit, had become the main world sources of long-term international capital. These flows, on top of their deficits, could only be financed by massive short-term borrowing; or in the old language of British crises, massive exposure to hot money.

If this had taken the form of foreign deposits in New York and London, the alarm bells might have sounded;

but in fact the money percolated through many largely invisible channels — commercial dollar reserves, and most important, massive yen borrowing by English-speaking institutions. The banks and funds saw the "over-valued" yen, available at commercial rates of about 2 per cent, as an irresistible bargain. In 1993, they collectively borrowed \$120 billion in Tokyo. Then, a year ago, the yen started to rise still higher, and these yen debts looked anything but cheap.

It was this yen shock, William Sterling of Merrill Lynch argues in the current *International Economy*, which set off the bond débâcle. As soon as rates started to rise, funds which had financed bond portfolios with yen loans were losing on both sides of their book, and started to scramble for safety. Now the Kobe earthquake will force the Japanese Government to borrow an extra \$100 billion that might otherwise have refreshed world markets.

Whatever its particular troubles (probably mainly in bonds), Warburg can thus be seen in a global context of financial fragility. There is still more bad news for a London bank in the current sterling mini-crisis. (This can probably also be traced to Tokyo.) The English-speaking banks, and especially the investment banks and funds, are again paying the price of risk exposure. In the 1980s, it was property and sovereign risk; this time the main exposures are in interest rates and exchange rates. Folly is a constant.

Why do they do it? Basically, because they are trying to turn a windfall into a way of life. The huge profits generated by deregulation and the Reagan bull market have become built into inflated salaries and shareholder expectations. But the tides which generated the profits have now turned unpredictable, and the bankers are rediscovering the oldest financial truth: high returns are only available where the risk is high.

### Key people must be kept, says Patricia Tehan

## Scholey has to win Warburg battle for hearts and minds

THE challenge facing Sir David Scholey, now chairman and chief executive of SG Warburg, is to change the bank's image, both internally and publicly, from weakness to strength.

The sudden resignation of Lord Cairns, the chief executive, illustrated the depth of the crisis. Much of the problem was of Warburg's own making, though the timing of the crisis was particularly cruel since it was forced to issue its second profit warning in four months yesterday.

Investment banks worldwide suffered last year after turmoil in world equity and bond markets. The bulk of Warburg's profits in the first six months came from its fund management business, the 75 per cent-owned Mercury Asset Management, and the second-half picture will be the same.

Low volumes and dealing losses have driven many firms, including Warburg, to

embark on rigorous cost-reduction programmes, which mostly mean job cuts.

Investment banking is a people business. So according to a Warburg spokesman, Sir David spent most of Monday talking to staff, walking the trading floors, listening to what the people were saying. Few remember having spotted him on the floor before and one insider said it was remarkable to hear his voice booming over the loudspeaker, "making asinine comments about the need to pull together as a team".

In an internal staff memo, Sir David made no bones about the scale of the task in hand. He said that in order to secure its position among the world's major investment banking and asset management groups, the bank needed to regain its "old habits of rigorous quality and cost control and of total commitment to providing clients with prod-

ucts and services that they need".

In a rallying cry to the troops he told them that they were "a team of very high calibre and commitment" and called on them to mobilise their maximum energy and determination.

Although recognising that investment banking is a cyclical business, Sir David must quickly take some difficult decisions about where to swing the axe. Analysts estimate the bank must make savings of about £70 million.

In 1993 Warburg spent a lot on building up a global securities business. Now it faces spending huge sums cutting back. The US and Japan are thought to be big targets, though Warburg said yesterday that it was committed to both markets. It has already pulled out of the eurobond business, with the loss of 180 jobs. One obvious target for

further cuts would be its equities distribution business.

Sir David and the four members of his new investment banking executive committee have to try to keep their best staff at a time of extremely low profitability. Morgan Grenfell, which is building up an equities operation in London by acquiring people and teams, has its Deutsche Bank parent's chequebook at its disposal. Last week it poached Maurice Thompson and Michael Cohrs, the co-heads of equity syndication and two of Warburg's key staff, along with eight of their 30-strong team.

Warburg has a March year end. Bonuses are paid in May and the bank is starting negotiations with its investment banking and securities staff about bonuses. It is likely to have to guarantee bonus payments for staff it has identified as crucial.

The sector analysts and salesmen likely to be a target for Morgan Grenfell are in a strong bargaining position — it could be disastrous for Warburg to lose its property, financials or telecoms teams. The bank will have to match what is on offer from the opposition.

A hostile bid for Warburg is out of the question. In this business, if the people leave, the clients go with them.

Sir David must identify a clear strategy. He probably has until Warburg's results are announced in May before he needs to demonstrate the effectiveness of this week's management changes in full, but he must give a flavour of his strategy to staff, shareholders and corporate clients soon.



Warburg faces more staff going the same way as the Broadgate sculpture *Rush Hour*



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## Equities extend losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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**THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE**

[illegible]



# Manufacturers given help to make investment decisions

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government, industry and the banks will today launch a joint initiative aimed at improving manufacturing companies' ability to raise finance for investment.

The move is a unique joint effort by all the investment parties, stemming from the Government's White Paper on competitiveness launched by Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade.

Ministers, industry leaders and bankers — including Eddie George, Bank of England

Governor — today launch a guide primarily for small manufacturing companies, with a turnover of between £1 million and £10 million, and designed to bridge what ministers call the "understanding gap" between these firms and potential investors.

The guide, drawn up by a working group including Treasury and Department of Trade and Industry officials, together with the CBI, EEF engineering employers and the MTTA machine tool trade body, plus bankers and financiers, is aimed at helping industry to make sound investment decisions, select the most appropriate financial

package and prepare fund applications which maximise chances of success.

Tim Eggar, Industry Minister, will disclose today that up to two thirds of manufacturers' proposals put to banks, and finance and leasing firms, are rejected as of too poor a quality to allow for evaluation.

Urging industry to adopt new practices, he will say: "The message from lenders is clear: if they can see that a business is sound, able to evaluate investment opportunities and will be improved by the proposed investment then they will lend."

Mr George welcomes the DTI's "Money

and Machines" initiative: "I hope it will contribute to a better understanding between those who supply finance and those who use it to improve the productive capacity of our economy."

Stuart White, chairman of the British Bankers' Association small firms sub-committee, says: "The process of evaluating capital investment will not only help companies to check that the investment proposal has been properly prepared, but will also provide a good basis for persuading financiers to provide the correct level of support."

John Parsons, chairman of the CBI's

smaller firms council, says: "Access to finance is a key issue for many growth-oriented manufacturing small and medium-sized enterprises. However, lack of experience in planning capital finance and preparing financial applications can seriously reduce success rates."

The working group behind today's report has been careful not to make it an attack on banks or small businesses. It rejects the charge that the guide is aimed only at the investment margin, but accepts the importance of a stable macroeconomic environment and low inflation and interest rates.

## Courtaulds sells fabric business

Courtaulds, the chemicals group, is selling its performance fabrics business in Lancashire in two deals.

The Tygallor business, which supplies high performance fabrics coated with non-stick polymers, is to be sold to Chemfab Corporation of the US for £9.7 million. Fothergill Engineering Fabrics, which specialises in technical textiles for thermal protection, is being sold to private investors for an undisclosed sum thought to be less than Tygallor's price.

Courtaulds said that the two businesses, with combined turnover of £16 million in the year to March 31, were peripheral to its main fibre operations.

## Unit diversifies

Unit Group, the maker of industrial pallets, is diversifying into property. It is to buy a portfolio of properties in the South-East for £6.25 million and to acquire Simberg, which owns shops in Glasgow, Dundee and Elgin. Unit is paying £500,000 for Simberg and repaying debt of £600,000. It is raising £1.19 million via a two-for-seven rights issue at 39p, and seeks to join the main stock market from the Unlisted Securities Market.

## St Modwen up

St Modwen Properties, the property investment and development company, is lifting its total dividend to 1.6p, from 1p, with a 1p final, after pre-tax profits rose to £13.2 million, from £3.5 million, in the year to November 30. Profits included a £3.8 million surplus from selling the Ocean shopping centre, Burton upon Trent. Earnings per share rose to 9.2p (2.2p) and net assets to 49p (39p).

## Howard ahead

Howard Holdings, the property developer and plant hire company, lifted taxable profits to £104,213 from £37,370 in its half year to October 31, in spite of turnover slipping to £2.7 million (£3 million). There is again no interim dividend. Earnings per share rose to 0.4p (0.14p).

## Sage to grow

Sage Group, the computer software company, expects to create 200 jobs in a £4 million investment plan, expanding its offices in Newcastle upon Tyne for its staff.

## Expansion for British Steel with £93m buy

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH STEEL is extending its expansion into the higher-value end of steel production by buying out its partner in UES Holdings, Britain's leading specialist steelmaker.

For £93 million in cash, Britain's dominant steelmaker will acquire the 36.1 per cent share in the engineering steels manufacturer held by GKN, the industrial conglomerate.

The long-awaited move caps six months of rapid-fire investment announcements by British Steel positions itself to exploit an accelerating global recovery in steel demand and prices. It brings to £411 million the amount of cash it has committed to expansion since last September.

UES was established in 1986 during the final phase of the government-sponsored Phoenix programme to rationalise Britain's steel industry. It brought together the special steels business of the state-owned British Steel with the steel alloys and forgings business of GKN, which was formerly an independent steelmaker.

Caught by recession, it underwent severe rationalisation. After three years of losses, the second half of last year brought a rapid profit recovery. During the year to December 31 1994, UES achieved pre-tax profits of £18.2 million on sales of £658 million, of which £272 million was exported. A second half profit of £20.5 million compared with a modest first half loss.

UES has net cash balances of £28 million and net assets of

£425 million. GKN will be obliged to make a net exceptional charge in its 1994 accounts of £20.5 million to reflect a £59.6 million loss on the sale of its £153 million investment in UES.

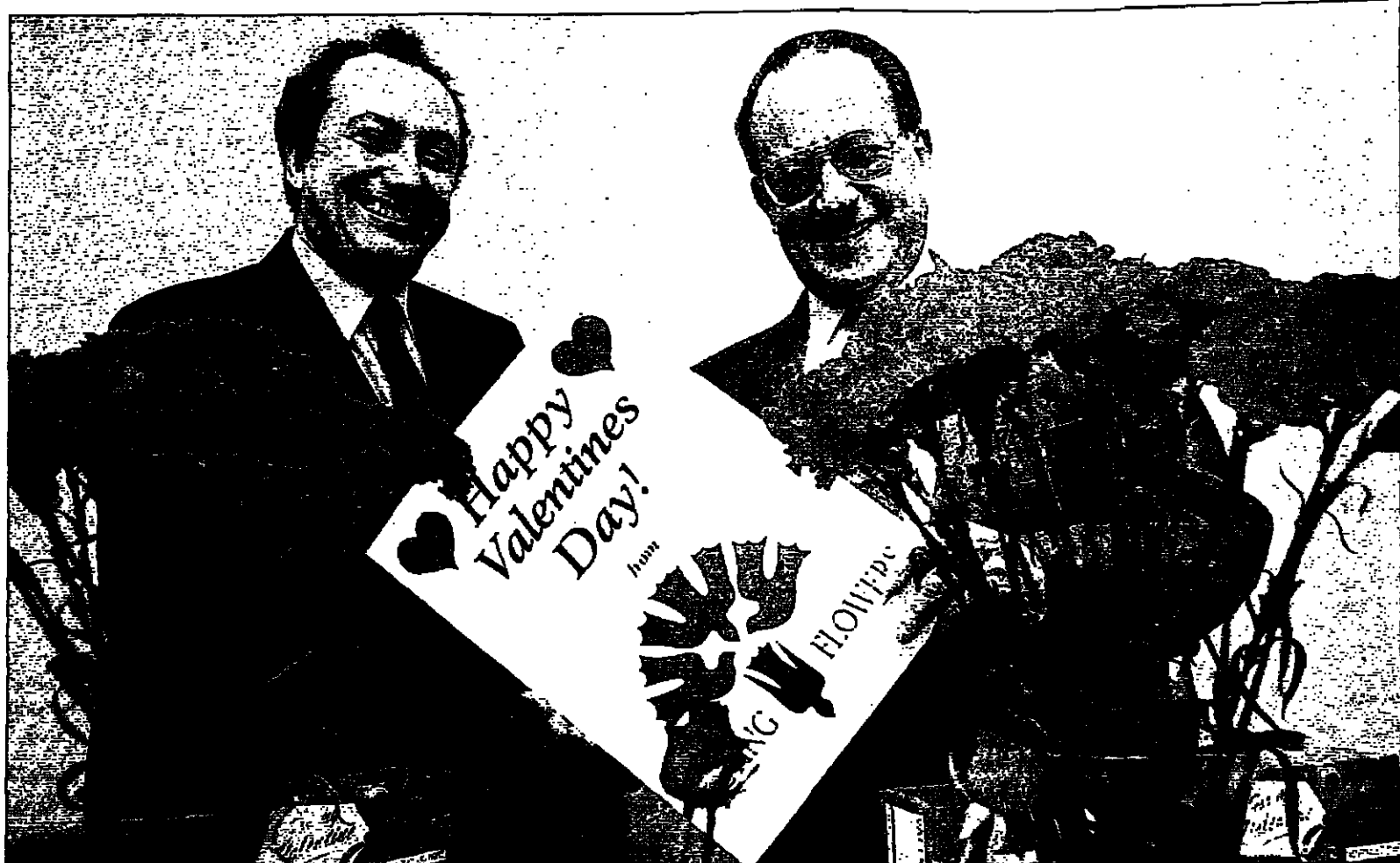
With 6,500 employees spread across a dozen sites, UES is a substantial business. It produces about 1.25 million tonnes of steel a year. Added to almost 13 million tonnes last year produced by British Steel by the basic oxygen process, that will take British Steel's share of the total United Kingdom steel production from about 75 per cent to some 83 per cent.

The UES steel division has big steel making plants at Totherham and Stocksbridge in Yorkshire, and re-rolling operations at Thrybergh, Yorkshire; Cable Street, Wolverhampton and Tinsley Park, Sheffield.

The forgings division supplies components, mainly to the automotive industry, from Bromsgrove, Kidderminster, Lincoln and Ayr. Products include automotive crankshafts and aerospace forgings.

The Bright Bar division manufactures and distributes from Roundwood, Sheffield, Wednesbury and Tipton. All the existing operations are expected to continue.

In spite of British Steel's domination of UK production, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is expected to conclude that it will face adequate competition from other producers. *Tempus, page 28*



Tim Dunningham, managing director, left, and Walter Goldsmith took the wraps off a 65 per cent profit rise and a bigger dividend

## Business is blooming at Flying Flowers

BUSINESS is blooming at Flying Flowers, the direct mail florist based in Jersey, which yesterday unveiled a 65 per cent rise in profits (Susan Gilchrist writes). The company, which specialises in carnations rather than red roses, again chose Saint Valentine's Day to announce full-year results.

Pre-tax profits jumped to £1.8 million (£1.1 million) in the year to December 30, boosted by the acquisition of DPA Direct last March. Walter Goldsmith, chairman, said disappointing sales from Mother's Day had been offset by a buoyant Christmas. The final dividend is lifted to 2.0p (1.35p) making a total payout of 2.95p (1.35p).

## Kvaerner dividend lifted but profits fall

By COLIN NARBROUGH

KVAERNER, the London-listed Norwegian group that is Britain's largest commercial shipbuilder, had its 1994 profits depressed by big losses on an offshore project, but expects a strong profit rebound this year.

Although the pre-tax profit last year dropped to £117 million from almost £127 million, the board has proposed that the dividend be raised by 5p to 58p per share. Erik Tønseth, the group president, said yesterday that the "considerably improved result" expected this year would come as no surprise.

Apart from a £47.6 million

loss at its oil and gas division, caused by a £96 million loss on a pioneering project in Norway's Troll oilfield, Kvaerner, owner of the Govan shipyard on the Clyde, reported higher profits in shipbuilding, its most profitable division, as well as pulp, mechanical engineering and shipping.

Shipbuilding, which encompasses yards in Europe and the Far East, lifted profits to £114 million from £97 million in 1993. Govan is back in the black, but Kvaerner remains concerned about the relatively low productivity at the yard. The group employs about 4,000 people in Britain.

## Minister preaches Green word to CBI

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN MAWHINNEY, the Transport Secretary, will today warn business that it cannot afford to ignore the environmental damage caused by ever increasing road use.

In a keynote speech to the Confederation of British Industry, he will also make clear his commitment to respond to last year's Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, which concluded that further large-scale road building in Britain was unsustainable.

However, the speech, to CBI members in the South-East, will stop well short of announcing specific measures to curb road use. Instead, it will

throw the question open to the business community to come up with solutions.

Two weeks ago, the CBI accused the Government of granting the Green lobby excessive influence over government policy at the expense of business interests. It was alarmed by the findings of the Royal Commission, which called for a doubling of the price of petrol and spending on roads to be halved.

In its report on national transport policy, *Missing Links*, the CBI said called for more investment in new roads and an improvement in rail services.

## Threat to BT and Mercury grows in Scotland

By ERIC REGULY

SCOTTISH Power will continue its evolution next month when it takes on BT and Mercury with the launch of ScottishTelecom. The commercial telecommunications service differs from other emerging telecoms players in that it is building its own trunk and local-loop networks; eventually, it will not have to rely on BT to complete domestic calls.

The trunk-line system is similar to the one developed by Energis in England and Wales. Energis, owned by the National Grid, created a national network on the cheap by hanging fibre-optic cable from its electricity pylons.

ScottishTel has done the same, using ScottishPower's pylons.

Providing the local loop was equally simple because ScottishPower runs electricity cables into customer homes and businesses. All ScottishTel had to do was run fibre-optic lines along existing electricity ducts.

ScottishTel spent £30 million in 1994 to create its network, and plans to invest another £15 million this year, offering cut-rate prices to attract business customers. Scottish Nuclear, the Glasgow City Council, Abbey National and TeleWest Cable are among the believers so far.

It intends to attack the residential market about two years. The cable companies, which

have licences to offer both video and telephony services, are likely partners on the home front.

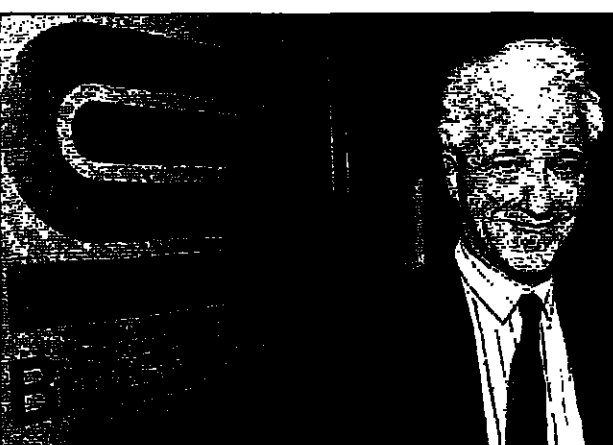
Rod Matthews, ScottishTel's chief executive, said the company's goal is to capture about 20 per cent of the Scottish market by the end of the decade. "It has got to be around that sort of number, or it doesn't make sense," he said.

Some observers think ScottishTel will have a hard time evolving beyond fringe status. They note that BT, in spite of its size, is proving to be an agile competitor. Recent statistics show that BT, 11 years after it was privatised and four years after the BT-Mercury duopoly was broken, still accounts for 88 per cent of the industry's turnover. BT is guarding its business

customers especially carefully. David Miller, finance director of General Cable, said: "What ScottishTel is doing is exactly what Mercury did: they are trying to cream off the top of the business market because it's the most lucrative. But the business market is exactly where BT is cutting."

BT has been offering special incentives to keep existing business customers, and lure others. But it has one big competitive disadvantage. Under its licence, it cannot offer regional pricing.

If ScottishTel reduces its rates, BT cannot match them unless it offers the same prices across the whole country.



Thinking big: Brian Moffat, chairman of British Steel

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THE TIMES

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MUSIC for Shakespear... contrasted with music... school celebration in... of the early-evening... grammes at St Giles, C... gate, associated with... Barbican's Tippett Fe... The Nash Ensemble w... duced by Andrew P... who, with Roger Savag... vided a new sequence... incidental music and... that Tippett wrote for... duction of The Tempest... Old Vic in 1962 - now... title To the Elements... These words come... Prospero's farewell to... end of the play, a... lines "tricky spirit"... music, which includ... three Songs for Arie... Tippett published se... They were sung wit... and grace by the tenor...







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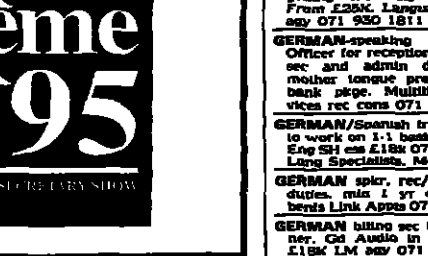
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Far from fretting about how to win those sections of the TV audience it does not have, the BBC should concentrate on appreciating the ones it has

## Young viewers like it bloody

As the BBC continues its comic pursuit of the untamable — mass audiences through political correctness — it becomes clear that British television cannot give younger, downmarket viewers what they really want because middle-aged, middle-class regulation won't let them have it. Thank God.

This morning, the results of the BBC's two-year review of its programmes will be unveiled. Advance leaks suggest that the BBC has spent £2 million to learn that we are indeed two nations, and that one likes the BBC better than does the other. But which two nations? Rich and poor? North and South? Male and female?

Of course, the chasm the BBC most regrets finding itself on the wrong side of is that between youth and age. What the BBC really wants is Channel 4's audience. Today's new figures from the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising show that Channel 4 easily outstrips the other three terrestrial

channels in popularity with the most sought-after age group: the 16 to 34s, the viewers of tomorrow. And to twist the knife, the institute's figures also show that Channel 4 appeals to the very socio-economic groups, the C2DEs, which the BBC is beating its breast about under-serving.

Channel 4 knows what the young want, and has probably gone as far as it can go in supplying it: eating vomit, necrophilia confessions and nude chat shows; a loopy breakfast programme and, coming in March, *Red Light Zone*, "a major new initiative" illuminating, over eight Saturday nights, the sex industries, erotica, sexual tourism and the body trade.

Last week, Michael Grade was sceptical about my suggestion that

such boldness might be the real reason why Channel 4 has lost its battle with the Conservative Government to get back the £57 million that the law requires it to hand to ITV. But I'm not so sure. Paul Johnson's intemperate outburst in the *Daily Mail* on the irreverent trio responsible for Channel 4's attack on Mother Teresa seemed to me to vent a wider view that this radical channel is tolerated, on a leash, if only to keep worse at bay.

With its lost £57 million, Channel 4 says it could sponsor many more British films. With these, it certainly has the knack. Its latest hit, *Shallow Grave*, has had reviewers saying "gripping", "impressively assured" and "if only more British movies turned out this way".

Yet to me *Shallow Grave* is the



BRENDA MADDOX

perfect example of the two-nations gulf the BBC is facing. *Shallow Grave* made me so sick that I wished I had not gone. Not because of the bloody, ham-fisted dismemberment of a corpse that forms the plot, but rather because of two swift scenes of men tortured to death: one put naked into a deep freezer, the other trussed and

drowned in a bathtub. These will stick in my mind for ever.

I know, I know. To admit that you cannot take film violence is tantamount to admitting that your favourite exercise machine is the Zimmer frame — that you are in the age group with which the BBC feels so burdened: the middle and well-over-middle aged.

My wish is not to stop Channel 4 from showing things such as last Saturday night's *The Word*, in which someone drank raw worms mixed, but not thoroughly, in an electric blender, nor from making black films. It is to point out that the BBC cannot go further towards the social edge in pursuit of youth without running foul of the entire regulatory system legally imposed by the very gentility the BBC now so resents.

What the successes of *Pulp Fiction* and the forthcoming *Natural Born Killers* prove is that the young demand graphic representations of physical pain.

Why this anguish should have such box-office appeal is anybody's guess. Perhaps filmic approximations are necessary for a generation which has never known a fire-bombing or a gas chamber, let alone the use of the prison treadmill as a punishment for homosexuality.

But British regulation, the strictest in Europe, is based on the belief that the extremes of the cinema should be banned from the living room. Call it a double standard or hypocrisy, or call it civility: the wish, enshrined in law, is to protect not only children but everybody from the unexpected

intrusion of the unwanted in their own homes.

This wish accounts for the severe censorship of films released for videos, and even of advertisements. Only last month the Broadcasting Standards Council upheld a complaint against the White Fish Authority for an ITV commercial showing a man lying, frosted, in a deep freezer, because there were dangers of imitation. It will be interesting to see whether the similar scene in *Shallow Grave* passes the video censors.

So good luck to the BBC in shedding its gentility. Good luck to it in attracting the elusive downmarket 16 to 34s with new programmes about science, the regions and ethnic minorities. Above all, good luck in not further alienating the middle-class and middle-aged — no vanishing constituency but a growing one. Perhaps the corporation should now spend another £2 million to find out why it does not appreciate the loyal audience it has.



Star interviewers: the subtle but soft, David Frost, left, with Kenneth Clarke, and the challenging and confrontational, Jeremy Paxman



## Rewards for the loyal shopper

Supermarkets are now thanking customers for choosing their stores

A new type of competition has broken out among the supermarket chains: the "Thank You" wars. Tesco was first off the mark last Friday with the launch of its nationwide loyalty scheme, which offers customers 1 per cent off their grocery bills if they pay with their Clubcard.

Then, on Sunday, Sainsbury's staff greeted shoppers with a leaflet and a speech about the chain's 125th birthday celebrations. Over the next month, Sainsbury's customers will be inundated with special offers, prize draws and little gifts to thank its shoppers' loyalty.

But why launch these initiatives and why now? Unable to notch up spectacular sales growth simply by opening new supermarkets and under pressure from discounters, the chains are realising just how valuable their existing customers are. And they are trying to find better ways of persuading consumers to part with more of their money. But with similar product ranges, store environments, and price and service levels, they are finding it difficult to stand out from the crowd.

The plan is to make each local store into a magnet for customers, transforming their weekly shop into a thrill. Archie Norman, the chief executive of Asda, says that shopping should be like reading a book: something to grab you in the beginning, and to keep you moving through to the end. "As they come out of the store, people should be able to tell you what the chapter headings were and why it had an exciting ending," he says.

Anthony Rees, Sainsbury's director of marketing, agrees. National brand values encapsulated by slogans, such as "Sainsbury's, where good food costs less", remain crucial, he says. "But each customer's view of

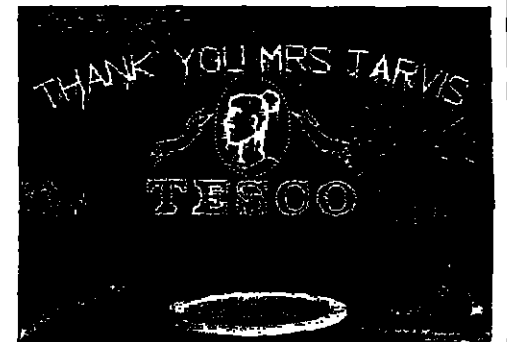
Sainsbury's comes not from national advertising but from how they were treated during their last visit.

"We don't want to be seen as a large, faceless company that means nothing to the customers," he says. "If they like our new approach, it might become the pattern of the future."

Like Tesco, Grant Harrison, the Clubcard manager, says: "It is up to each store to develop a local relationship with its customers so that each begins to see it as 'my store'."

Tesco plans to use data gleaned from the Clubcard — which automatically links names and addresses to records of what they buy — so that it can target offers at customers.

But will the "Thank You" prize draws and other events be powerful enough to compete with the discounts offered by



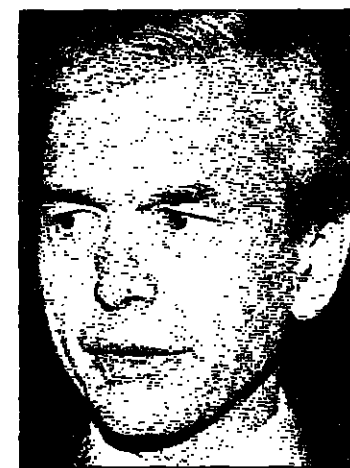
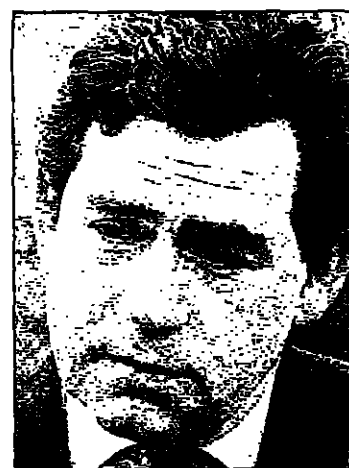
Tesco's scheme offers discounts on bills

loyalty schemes? Wary of a new round of price wars, whereby each supermarket chain tries to outbid its rivals by offering higher and higher loyalty incentives, Sainsbury's says it will never take its Saver Card nationwide. (Currently, it is restricted to a few selected stores.) But because Sainsbury's and Asda are waiting in the wings with their own schemes, it may be forced to. These card schemes are not just price wars by another name. The discounts offered are effectively payments to consumers for handing over crucial marketing information. As Tesco's Mr Harrison says, marketing is moving away from trying to change consumers' behaviour to understanding it and giving them what they want. That means future competition will revolve around who knows their customers best.

ALAN MITCHELL

## I'm sorry, I'll ask that again

John Birt's Paxman-bashing speech reveals the malaise that has overtaken the modern television interview, says David Cox



Veterans of many "fencing" matches: Brian Walden, left, Gordon Brown, and John Humphrys

would be reminded at length that the Tories had increased the total tax burden and broken their promises on VAT, that tax revenues would rise if unemployment were reduced and that training was very important, before they had realised that they would learn nothing whatsoever about taxation.

During Gordon Brown's final appearance on *Walden* in November, we asked him in desperation whether he would at least acknowledge that if Labour were not prepared to say it would necessarily keep taxes down, then it must at

least be possible that taxes might go up. Some mysterious form of politician's logic enabled him to state confidently that no such inference could possibly be drawn.

While the Opposition refuses to discuss its plans, the Government hides behind fudges concocted to disguise its divisions. All interviewers have had to confront these realities, but they have done so in different ways.

Brian Walden would allow an interviewee to make an irrelevant response, then point out that his original question had not been an-

swered and suggest a reason for this. However, he could do this only because his interviews were longer than anyone else's. And the process tested the patience of viewers, who often learnt no more from the investment of a Sunday lunchtime than that a politician would not level with them.

Other interviewers have less airtime and less patient viewers. If they are to get anywhere they now have to interrupt. Some, in particular Nick Clarke of Radio 4's *The World at One*, are brilliant at judging when it is reasonable to do

this, but there are still listeners convinced that a pipsqueak hack is cheating them of a great man's pearls of wisdom. Since interruption may only provoke a different kind of filibuster, they are not easily disabused.

David Frost has dispensed with follow-up grillings and lets interviewees get away with inadequate responses to his often extremely acute questions. Politicians would have you believe that this approach is dangerously disarming, but their enthusiasm to appear on Frost's couch belies this.

What Frost and Alastair Stewart, his GMTV equivalent, achieve is helping gun-shy politicians such as John Major to avoid those tougher interview forums that remain, such as John Humphrys's *On the Record*, by providing them with

boltholes.

Jeremy Paxman is a quite different case. He has abandoned forensic inquiry in favour of firing off challenging questions without paying undue heed to the responses. His charisma enables him to carry this off to the delight of those who share his impatience with authority, but to the horror of those, perhaps including his Director-General, who believe in deference to the powerful.

No interviewer has found an effective means of tackling the politicians of today, nor is one likely to. There is no point blaming politicians for the way they choose to behave, but it is time broadcasters took some counter-measures. Political interview shows have proliferated largely because they cost little and seem easy.

Let us now have far fewer of them, much better done — and let's use the airtime released to mount programmes addressing the issues of the day in more effective ways.   
● The author is now a freelance current-affairs television producer.

## A wander in 'wasteland'

ANDY Allan, the chief executive of Carlton Television, confessed last year that he found daytime viewing a "dull and predictable" wasteland of banality. He need only have checked the ratings to discover that the mid-morning, sofa-based magazine programmes on ITV and BBC1 at which his remarks were aimed do not dominate daytime viewing anyway. Writes Alexandra Freen.

BBC's *Good Morning with Anne and Nick*, presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen, does not even feature in this week's ratings chart, which looks at the top 20 broadcasts

between 9.30am and 5.30pm, excluding children's programmes. Its rival on ITV, *This Morning*, presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan, fares slightly better, attracting 2.1 million viewers on Wednesday, January 25.

Channel 4 and BBC2, which rarely appear in peak-time ratings charts, perform strongly during the day, especially during the afternoon when the available audience is bigger than in the morning. The letters and numbers quiz show *Countdown*, which was the first programme to be broadcast on Channel 4, heads the chart with 4.9 million viewers.

### TOP 20: DAYTIME

January 23-29, 9.30am-5.30pm, excluding children's programmes

Programme	Date	Time	Chan	Producer	Genre	Audience (m)
1 Countdown	Tue 24	16.30	CH4	Yorkshire Television	Game Show	4.9
2 One O'Clock News	Fri 27	13.00	BBC1	Gandy Ltd One Ltd	News	4.7
3 Neighbours	Fri 27	13.30	BBC1	Seven Network Australia	Soap	4.6
4 Home And Away	Fri 27	13.30	ITV	ITN	Soap	3.4
5 Lurchtime News	Fri 27	15.58	BBC2	Mission Films	Celebrity show	3.1
6 Today's The Day	Fri 27	16.29	BBC2	Bazal Productions	Lifestyle	2.9
7 Ready, Steady, Cook	Tue 24	16.58	CH4	Harpis Productions Inc	Chat show	2.7
8 The Oprah Winfrey Show	Tue 24	17.01	CH4	Harpis Productions Inc	Game show	2.7
9 Oprah Winfrey	Fri 27	15.53	CH4	The Garth Ancier Co	Chat show	2.6
10 Timeslipper	Tue 24	17.02	ITV	Crawford Prod Pty	Soap	2.4
11 Ricki Lake	Tue 24	12.30	ITV	Universal	Drama series	2.3
12 Emmeline	Fri 27	14.47	BBC1	BBC	Chat show	2.3
13 The Flying Doctors	Fri 27	12.04	ITV	ITN	News	2.2
14 Pezle Mill	Fri 27	15.21	ITV	Universal	Drama Series	2.2
15 News Headlines	Wed 25	14.19	BBC1	Granada Television	Soap	2.1
16 Alex Smith & Jones	Mon 29	12.58	ITV	Granada Television	Consumer Affairs	2.1
17 Countdown Street	Wed 25	11.53	BBC	BBC	News	2.1
18 This Morning	Tue 24	15.53	BBC2	ITV	Consumer Affairs	2.1
19 News And Weather	Tue 24	10.00	ITV	Anglia Television	Consumer Affairs	2.1
20 The Time Place	Tue 24	10.00	ITV	Anglia Television	Consumer Affairs	2.1

BARE (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board)/David Graham & Associates 0823-322829  
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New research strengthens the link between media images of women and eating disorders

## Thin disguise for the glossy women

and reading glossy magazines were, moreover, particularly prone to eating disorders, the researchers claimed.

The findings intensify the professional dilemma for magazine journalists. In general, it is difficult to doubt their commitment to empowering young women, or to marrying feminist ideals with the sales ambitions of their publishers.

"Anorexia has been around since the 17th century," says Mandi Norwood, editor of *Company*. "The first recorded case was in 1694, so I think it is a bit rich to start heaping all the blame onto women's magazines, which have been around for only 30 or 40 years."

Women's magazines are an easy target. There has to be a deeper, more sinister explanation. "Anorexia has been around since the 17th century," says Mandi Norwood, editor of *Company*. "The first recorded case was in 1694, so I think it is a bit rich to start heaping all the blame onto women's magazines, which have been around for only 30 or 40 years."

When Dr Sarah Grogan, a psychologist at Manchester Metropolitan University, asked groups of male and female students to rate the attractiveness of magazine



Kate Moss: tabloid hype

models, both sexes emerged from the experiments with lowered self-esteem. Dr Grogan says: "Magazines are stuck in an almost impossible situation. Some, such as *Marie Claire*, are almost trying to go against the trend, looking at different bodies and saying they're all fine. But it's a dual message, because their models are still very thin."

The answer for women's glossies, says Rosie Boycott, editor of *Esquire*, the men's magazine, lies in a broader definition of femininity, bringing their agendas closer to those of men's media. Careers mix with romance, politics vie for space with parachuting and pedicures. "Men do not derive their sense of macho and self-esteem mainly from how they look," says Boycott. "It comes from their intelligence and interests. The appalling thing about women is that they still derive their sense of being from the female form."

Angela Holden, editor of *Sky* magazine, claims female readers demand it. "Men are more forgiving of the imperfect female body. Women prefer to look at totally idealised images. Every magazine tries to make women look totally appealing to its readers."

But newspapers, according to Dr Grogan, are even guiltier. Both tabloids and

broadsheets have seized on glamour as the palatable, youth-orientated antidote to global disasters, but their consciences, she says, lag behind.

"Fashion has beaten Bosnia and warring Russia to the front pages. There are models on prominent pages of *The Times*. Supermodels are bigger than pop stars or royalty, and, by God, they are slim."

Tabloids, she says, are particularly careless in their selection of female role models. "The two icons of the age, Jane Fonda and Princess Diana, were both well-known bullies and wildly obsessive. Princess Di takes her bulimic body to the gym and stays there for hours."

At least most editors now disdain the Kate Moss genre of role model. Mandi Norwood of *Company* says the Croydon waif has never been an icon for her readers: for April Joyce, editor of *19* magazine, Moss is a mere figure of fun in teenage gossip columns.

"The whole hypocrisy of Kate Moss was a real tabloid notion," says Holden. "They just love to show a photo of a half-clad waif, and if it's next to a story on anorexia, that makes it sexier."

LUCY BERRINGTON



## Human Rights Law Report

## Breach in retrospective effect of drugs confiscation order

Welch v United Kingdom  
(Case No 11994/448/52)Before R. Rysdall, President and Judges  
F. Matscher, R. Macdonald, J. de  
Mayer, T. Fölkel, R. Pekkanen, Sir John  
Freeland, L. Wildhaber and K.  
Jungwirth

Registrar H. Petzold

[Judgment February 9]

When a confiscation order was imposed  
retrospectively following conviction for  
drug offences, and irrespective of the  
characterisation of that confiscation  
measure in domestic law, such a  
confiscation could amount to a penalty  
within the meaning of article 7(1) of the  
European Convention on Human Rights.In the instant case, the European  
Court of Human Rights held, unanimously,  
that there was a violation of that  
provision in that Mr Welch faced more  
far-reaching detriment as a result of a  
confiscation order under the Drug  
Trafficking Offences Act 1986 than that  
to which he was exposed at the time of  
the commission of the offence for which  
he was convicted.That conclusion concerned only the  
retrospective application of relevant  
legislation and not powers of confiscation  
conferred on the courts.Article 7(1) of the Convention provides:  
"No one shall be held guilty of any  
criminal offence on account of any act  
or omission which did not constitute a  
criminal offence under national or  
international law at the time when it was  
committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty  
be imposed than that which was applicable  
at the time the criminal offence was  
committed."Section 1 of the 1986 Act provides:  
"(1) ... where a person appears before  
the crown court to be sentenced in  
respect of one or more drug trafficking  
offences and has not previously been  
sentenced or otherwise dealt with in  
respect of conviction for the offence or,  
as the case may be, any of theoffences concerned), the courts shall act  
as follows:  
"(2) The court shall first determine  
whether he has benefited from drug  
trafficking.""(3) For the purposes of this Act, a  
person who has at any time (whether  
before or after the commencement of  
this section) received any payment or  
other reward in connection with drug  
trafficking carried on by him or another  
has benefited from drug trafficking.""(4) If the court determines that he has  
so benefited, the court shall, before  
sentencing ... determine ... the amount  
to be recovered in his case by virtue of  
this section.""(5) The court shall then in respect of  
the offence or offences concerned - (a)  
order him to pay that amount ..."Section 2 provides:  
"(1) For the purposes of this Act - (a)  
any payments or other rewards received  
by a person at any time (whether before  
or after the commencement of section 1  
of this Act) in connection with drug  
trafficking carried on by him or another  
are his proceeds of drug trafficking, and  
(b) the value of his proceeds of drug  
trafficking is the aggregate of the values  
of the payments or other rewards.""(2) The court may, for the purpose of  
determining whether the defendant has  
benefited from drug trafficking and, if  
he has, of assessing the value of his  
proceeds of drug trafficking, make the  
following assumptions, except to the  
extent that any of the assumptions are  
shown to be incorrect in the defendant's  
case:  
"(3) Those assumptions are -  
"(a) that any property appearing to the  
court - (i) to have been held by him at  
any time since his conviction, or (ii) to  
have been transferred to him at any time  
since the beginning of the period of six  
years ending when the proceedings were  
instituted against him, was received by  
him, at the earliest time at which he  
appears to the court to have held it, as a  
payment or reward in connection withdrug trafficking carried on by him,  
"(b) that any expenditure of his since  
the beginning of that period was met out  
of payments received by him in connection  
with drug trafficking carried on by  
him, and  
"(c) that, for the purpose of valuing any  
property received or assumed to have  
been received by him at any time as such  
a reward, he received the property free  
of any other interests in it ..."Section 4 provides:  
"(1) Subject to subsection (3) below, the  
amount to be recovered in the defendant's  
case ... shall be the amount the  
crown court assesses to be the value of  
the defendant's proceeds of drug  
trafficking.""(2) If the court is satisfied as to any  
matter relevant for determining the  
amount that might be realised at the  
time the confiscation order is made,  
the court may issue a certificate giving  
the court's opinion as to the matters  
concerned and shall do so if satisfied as  
mentioned in subsection (3) below.""(3) If the court is satisfied that the  
amount that might be realised at the  
time the confiscation order is made is  
less than the amount the court assesses  
to be the value of his proceeds of drug  
trafficking, the amount to be recovered  
in the defendant's case under the  
confiscation order shall be the amount  
appearing to the court to be the amount  
that might be realised."Mr Peter Welch was arrested on  
November 3, 1986 and subsequently  
charged with drugs offences allegedly  
committed between January 1, 1986 and  
the day of his arrest.On August 24, 1988 he was found  
guilty on five counts. He was sentenced  
to 22 years imprisonment in respect of  
two offences and to 20 years in respect of  
the other three.In addition, the judge made a  
confiscation order against him for  
£66,914 under the 1986 Act, in default of  
payment the applicant would be liable to  
serve a consecutive two-year prison  
sentence. The operative provisions of  
that Act had come into force on January  
12, 1987, that is after the dates on which  
the offences were committed.The applicant appealed to the Court of  
Appeal, which on June 11, 1990 reduced  
the sentence by two years and the  
amount of the confiscation order by  
£7,000.The application was lodged with the  
European Commission of Human  
Rights on June 22, 1990. It was declared  
admissible on February 12, 1993 in so far  
as it raised issues under article 7 of the  
Convention.Having attempted unsuccessfully to  
secure a friendly settlement the Com-  
mission drew up a report on October 15,  
1993 in which it established the facts and  
expressed the opinion that there had  
been no violation of article 7 (seven votes  
to seven with the casting vote of the  
President being decisive).The Commission referred the case to  
the Court on January 15, 1994.In its judgment, the European Court  
of Human Rights held as follows:  
1. Alleged violation of article 7.1The Court first observed that the  
retrospective imposition of the confisca-  
tion order was not in dispute in the  
present case.The order had been made following a  
conviction in respect of drugs offences  
which had been committed before the  
1986 Act came into force.While the reach of the measure could  
be determined by the date of the offence,  
the question was whether the order constituted  
a penalty within the meaning of article 7.1.  
The concept of a penalty in civil  
rights and obligations and criminal  
charge in article 6.1, an autonomous  
Convention concept.To render the protection offered by  
article 7 effective, the Court had to  
remain free to go behind appearances  
and assess for itself whether a particular  
measure amounted in substance to a  
penalty within the meaning of the  
provision.The wording of the second sentence of  
article 7.1 indicated that the starting  
point in any assessment of the existence  
of a penalty was whether the measure in  
question was imposed following conviction  
for a criminal offence.Other factors that would be taken into  
account as relevant in that connection  
were the nature and purpose of the  
measure in question, its characterisation  
under national law, the procedures  
involved in the making and im-  
plementation of the measure and its  
severity.As regards the connection with a  
criminal offence, it was to be observed  
that before an order could be made  
under the 1986 Act the accused must  
have been convicted of one or more drug  
trafficking offences.That link was in no way diminished  
by the fact that, due to the operation of  
the statutory presumptions concerning  
the extent to which the applicant had  
benefited from trafficking, the court  
order could affect proceeds or property  
which were not directly related to the  
facts underlying the criminal conviction.While the reach of the measure could  
be determined by the date of the offence,  
the question was whether the order constituted  
a penalty within the meaning of article 7.1.The concept of a penalty in civil  
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the question was whether the order constituted  
a penalty within the meaning of article 7.1.

## Court of Appeal

## Law Report February 15 1995

## Court of Appeal

## Inaction did not pervert justice

Regina v Headley

Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth,  
Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice  
Popplewell and Mrs Justice Steel

[Judgment February 13]

A defendant who ignored a summons  
in his name and who allowed  
information to be given to the police  
concerning his whereabouts, but who  
did not appear to the court, did not  
thereby do a series of acts  
tending to pervert the course of  
justice.The Court of Appeal so held  
when allowing the appeal of  
Anthony Michael Headley against  
his conviction on July 4, 1992  
following a change of plea to guilty  
after a ruling by Judge Maclean  
Webster, QC, at Salisbury Crown  
Court, of one count of perverting  
the course of justice between  
August 25, 1991 and September 8,  
1992, on which he was fined £350  
and ordered to pay £500 towards  
the costs of the prosecution.Mr Geoffrey Kelly, assigned by  
the Registrar of Criminal Appeals  
for the appellant, Mr Charles  
Cochand for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.

## Adjudicator should state findings of fact

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte  
Shahim Begum

Before Mr Justice Schiemann

[Judgment February 8]

An adjudicator determining an  
appeal under section 19 of the  
Immigration Act 1971 who was not  
satisfied that an appellant and  
dependants would be able to  
maintain themselves without re-  
course to public funds should state  
clearly who were the parties, what  
were their assets and what  
amounts were regarded as re-  
quired for adequate maintenance,  
in order to assist in isolating  
questions of law from those of fact  
and simplify the task of super-  
vision that fell to the Immigration  
Appeal Tribunal and the court.Mr Justice Schiemann so stated  
in the Queen's Bench Division in a  
reserved judgment when allowing  
an application for judicial review  
by Shahim Begum of the appeal  
tribunal's refusal on August 27,  
1993 of leave to appeal against the  
dismissal of an application for  
leave to enter the United Kingdom  
on June 11, 1993 of an appeal by Ulfat  
Hussain against the refusal by an  
entry clearance officer on September  
2, 1991 of entry clearance to join  
her as his fiancée.Miss Indira Rajah for Miss  
Begum; Mr Steven Kovacs for the  
appeal tribunal.MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN  
said that an adjudicator faced with  
the task of explaining why he was  
not satisfied that the parties and  
their dependants would be able to  
maintain themselves without re-  
course to public funds should try to  
produce a decision which enabledgiving the judgment of the court,  
said that on August 26, 1991 when  
the appellant's brother was driving  
the appellant's car it was stopped  
by a police officer because it was  
not displaying a vehicle excise  
licence.The officer issued a form requiring  
the production of documents at a  
police station. The documents were  
not produced and a summons was  
issued in the appellant's name. He  
did not attend court and was  
sentenced in his absence at  
Stegness Magistrates Court on  
September 7, 1992 for driving  
without a licence, having no in-  
surance or test certificate and  
failing to produce insurance and a  
test certificate to the police. He was  
fined a total of £260, ordered to pay  
£20 costs and his licence was  
endorsed with eight penalty points.He did not make regular pay-  
ments and the matter was sent to  
the Salisbury Magistrates Court,  
which sought to recover the fine  
and costs. The matter came to light  
when a police officer executed a  
warrant for non-payment of fines  
and the appellant gave a different  
date of birth from that on the  
warrant. He explained the dis-crepancy by saying that his  
brother had been stopped when  
driving the appellant's car and had  
given the wrong date of birth.The terms of the indictment were  
important: "Perverting the course  
of justice. Particulars of offence:  
[the appellant] on a day between  
August 25, 1991 and September 8,  
1992 did a series of acts tending to  
pervert the course of justice,  
namely that he allowed information  
concerning his whereabouts to be  
given to the police, but who did not  
appear to the court."A submission was made to the  
trial judge that there was no case to  
answer on the basis that the  
appellant had not done any act, but  
alone a series of acts. The judge  
ruled against the submission and  
said that the appellant's acquies-  
cence could found a conviction of  
the offence. Following that ruling  
the appellant changed his plea to  
guilty.The offence was committed  
where a person or persons acted or  
embarked upon a course of con-duct which had a tendency to and  
was intended to pervert the course  
of public justice; see *R v Vreones*  
(1891) 1 QB 360; and *Archbold's  
Pleading, Evidence and Practice in  
Criminal Cases* (volume 2 (1994)  
paragraph 28-1).It was submitted that here there  
was no act or course of conduct on  
the appellant's part which could  
satisfy the requirements of that  
ingredient of the offence. The  
appellant was charged specifically  
in relation to the proceedings in the  
Stegness Court. He did not appear  
before that court or make any  
representations.Their Lordships were quite satis-  
fied that on the facts of the case  
the appellant did not act and did  
not pursue any course of conduct  
which could amount to the neces-  
sary ingredient of the actus reus  
of the offence. He remained silent.  
He did nothing.In those circumstances their  
Lordships were satisfied that the  
case ought to have been stopped by  
the trial judge. The defendant's  
acquiescence was insufficient to  
form any basis for the charge.Solicitors: Crown Prosecution  
Service, Lincoln.In re F (a Minor) (Child  
abduction: Risk if returned)Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss,  
Lord Justice Millett and Sir Chris-  
topher Slade

[Judgment February 9]

Where a mother who had wrongfully  
removed her child from one  
jurisdiction had, nevertheless,  
shown that the child would be  
placed under a grave risk and in  
an intolerable situation if ordered  
to be returned to that jurisdiction,  
the court exceptionally would not  
order the child's return in the  
exercise of its discretion and the  
high threshold criteria of article 13  
of the Hague Convention on the  
Civil Aspects of International  
Child Abduction would be  
satisfied.The Court of Appeal so held in a  
reserved judgment when allowing  
the appeal of the mother from the  
decision of Mr Justice Ward on  
December 20, 1994, who ordered  
the return of the child to the United  
States of America.Mr James Munby, QC, for the  
mother; Miss Pamela Scriven, QC  
and Mr Jeremy Rosenblatt for the  
father.LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS  
said that the appeal raised two  
difficult issues: whether the  
mother in removing the child from  
Colorado was in breach of the  
father's rights of custody under  
article 3 of the Hague Convention,  
scheduled to the Child Abduction  
and Custody Act 1985, and, if she  
was, whether it was a case in  
which article 13(b) applied and  
should bar the return of the child.The judge had found that the  
mother had wrongfully removed  
the child from the USA in breach  
of the father's rights of custody  
under article 3 and that the mother  
had not made out a case under  
article 13(b).Counsel were agreed that the  
child was habitually resident in  
Colorado prior to his removal by  
the mother, and that the issue  
under article 3 was removal and  
not retention.It was the duty of the court to  
construe the convention in a pur-  
posive way. It was repugnant to  
the philosophy of the convention  
for the court to apply it, secretly  
and with full knowledge that it was  
against the wishes of the other  
parent who possessed rights of  
custody to remove the child from  
the jurisdiction of the child's  
habitual residence.Rights of custody within the  
convention were broader than the  
order of the court and parents had  
rights in respect of their children  
without the need to have them  
declared by the court or defined by  
court order.The father and the mother both  
enjoyed equal and separate rights  
of custody by Colorado law. The  
removal of the child by the mother  
interfered with the rights of the  
father in that he was prevented  
from actually exercising them in  
the USA. In removing the childwithout the consent of the father  
and with the knowledge that if he  
knew he would have opposed her  
return, the mother was in breach of  
the father's rights of custody under  
the convention and the removal was  
wrongful.When a court had found that the  
removal of the child was wrongful  
within the meaning of the conven-  
tion, article 12 required that the  
court should order the return of the  
child forthwith unless any of the  
provisions of article 13 was estab-  
lished and the requested state  
exercised its discretion not to do so.Article 13(b) stated that the court  
was not bound to order the return  
of the child if the mother who  
opposed his return established that  
there was a grave risk that his or  
her return would expose the child  
to physical or psychological harm  
or otherwise place the child in an  
intolerable situation.Mr Munby recognised that a  
very high standard was required to  
demonstrate grave risk and an  
intolerable situation but argued  
that the convention envisaged that  
there would be cases in which the  
facts would meet that high  
standard.Admission of oral evidence in  
convention cases should be  
allowed sparingly.  
If the issues between the parties  
could not be resolved on affidavit,  
the article 13(b) criteria would not  
have been established. The child  
would be returned pursuant to  
article 12 and it would be for the  
court of habitual residence to  
determine the disputed issues with  
the opportunity to hear oral evi-  
dence and the parties cross-exam-  
ined.In many cases the absence of  
evidence from the other parent on  
the major issues would cause a  
court to hesitate to find the article  
13(b) threshold reached.However, in the present case,  
her Ladyship agreed with the  
judge that the evidence adduced by  
the mother should be treated as  
true, particularly since the allega-  
tions affected the child, there was  
an opportunity to rebut them and  
the consequences for the child on  
the evidence were potentially very  
serious. Since the evidence was in  
affidavit the court was in as  
good a position as the judge to  
assess its impact upon the stan-  
dard to be established.To her Ladyship's knowledge  
there was no case which had been  
heard in an English appellate  
court in which that standard had  
been reached.The signatories to the conven-  
tion, none the less, anticipated that  
circumstances could arise in which  
there would be a grave risk that the  
return would expose the child to an  
intolerable situation. There were  
several aspects in the present case  
that led her Ladyship, despite  
considerable hesitation, to con-  
clude that it was exceptionally so a  
case.LORD JUSTICE MILLETT,  
concurring, said that he was not  
wholly convinced by the evidence  
that there was a grave risk that the  
return of the child would expose  
him to physical or psychological  
harm or place him in an intoler-  
able position within the meaning of  
article 13 of the convention, but  
his Lordship was not prepared to  
press his doubts to a dissent.SIR CHRISTOPHER SLADE,  
agreeing, said that by the removal  
the mother deliberately frustrated  
the father's custody and separate  
rights under Colorado law, to  
determine the child's place of  
residence. Giving a purposive  
construction to the convention, his  
Lordship had no doubt that the  
removal was in breach of the  
father's rights of custody, within  
the meaning of the convention.The courts of this country, being  
willing only in rare cases to hold  
that the conditions of fact that gave  
rise to the court's discretion under  
article 13(b) were satisfied, were  
quite right to be cautious and to  
apply a stringent test. The invoca-  
tion of article 13(b), with scant  
justification, was all too likely to be  
the last resort for parents who had  
wrongfully removed their child to  
another jurisdiction.The present case, however, was  
exceptional and the criteria of  
article 13(b) had been met.Solicitors: Eaton Evans & Morris,  
Haverfordwest; Mishcon de  
Reya.The 4th Annual High Level One Day Conference  
Competitive marketing for  
Accountants and SolicitorsBritain's foremost conference on market-  
ing for accountants and solicitors, spon-  
sored by The Times, takes place at The Cafe  
Royal in London on February 28.Ten speakers, all experts in their fields,  
will explain how professional people can  
achieve commercial success in an increas-  
ingly competitive and difficult environment,  
demonstrating:

- Competitive tactics
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## THE TIMES

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In re C (Minors) (Contact:  
Jurisdiction)Before Lord Justice Balcombe and  
Lord Justice Butler-Sloss

[Judgment September 20]

Notwithstanding the interim nature  
of a contact order made  
pending a possible adoption  
application, such application was  
concluded upon the making of the  
order so that there were not  
thereafter, within the meaning of  
section 8(3) of the Children Act  
1989, family proceedings still on  
foot such as might have given a  
judge jurisdiction to vary the order  
of his own motion under section 10  
of that Act.The Court of Appeal so held  
when granting the application of  
the father of three children for an  
extension of time in which to  
appeal against the order of Judge  
Wilson Mellor, QC, made on June  
3, 1994 whereby he varied at theinstance of the local authority an  
order made by him in August 1993  
which granted to the local au-  
thority an order, *inter alia*, freeing  
the children for adoption and  
allowing to the parents contact  
with the children at the rate of 12  
times a year; (b) granting leave to  
appeal and allowing the father's  
appeal against the order of June 3,  
1994 and (iii) varying the contact  
order to allow no more than three  
face-to-face contacts a year, pending  
further determination by the  
High Court.Section 8 of the 1989 Act pro-  
vides: "(3) For the purposes of this  
Act 'family proceedings' means any  
proceedings (a) under the  
inherent jurisdiction of the High  
Court in relation to children; and  
(b) under the enactments men-  
tioned in subsection (4).""(4) The enactments are ... (d)  
the Adoption Act 1976 ..."Section 10 provides: "(1) In any  
family proceedings in which a  
question arises with respect to the  
welfare of any child, the court may  
make a (joint or separate) order  
varying such order ... (b) the  
court considers that the order  
should be made even though no ...  
application has been made."Miss Julia Macur for the father;  
Mr Stephen Cobb for the council.LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS  
said that the application raised a  
short but not easy point of  
law, namely, given (i) that the  
purported variation by the judge of  
the contact order to reduce the  
number of face-to-face contacts to  
no more than three a year was not  
permissible within the slip rule  
and (ii) that the local authority had  
not had the power, having regard  
to the provisions of section 8(2)  
to make an application for a contact  
order, including by virtue of sec-tion 8(3) an application to vary  
such order, whether there were  
"family proceedings" on foot at the  
date of purported variation which  
might have given the judge juris-  
diction under section 10 to make an  
order of his own motion.Miss Macur had argued that the  
only proceedings on foot, namely  
those leading to the making of the  
interim care order, had been  
concluded with the making of that  
order.With regret, her Ladyship be-  
lieved that Miss Macur's technical  
point was right and that there was  
no way round it. The judge had not  
had jurisdiction to make the order  
of June 3, 1994.None the less, exercising the  
powers of the High Court, her  
Ladyship would vary the order of  
August 1993 to permit contact three  
times a year pending further  
determination by the High Court.





## THEATRE page 40

Juliet Stevenson steps into Jacobean gore as The Duchess of Malfi comes to Greenwich

## ARTS

## DESIGN page 41

Zaha Hadid may have won in Cardiff, but the row over architecture competitions goes on



CINEMA: Margarethe von Trotta's *The Promise* takes the wrong turns in the right town; but get set for Indian fireworks

# Somewhat funereal in Berlin

Geoff Brown suffers through a slow start to Germany's 45th annual Film Festival

The past looms large at the 45th Berlin International Film Festival. This year cinema is 100 years old, or thereabouts, and the birthday party is in full swing. Before we settled down to the opening film there was a curtain-raiser from the archives: a reconstruction of Germany's first movie show, presented by the Skladanowsky brothers, Max and Emil, in Berlin's Winter Garden Variety Theatre on November 1, 1895. In the space of a few minutes we had jugglers, acrobats, dancing peasants and a man pitting his fists against a boxing kangaroo. This was much more fun than Lumière's dull old train arriving at a station.

The festival's retrospective section is playing its part by saluting Buster Keaton, also born 100 years ago. Contemporary film-makers are not standing by idly. Agnès Varda is offering a comic fantasy called *A Hundred and One Nights*, while Edgar Reitz, the director of *Heimat*, reviews German cinema in *The Night of the Film-makers*, part of a centenary television series conceived by the British Film Institute.

The first film in the festival, Margarethe von Trotta's *The Promise*, itself peered intently into the past on Berlin's doorstep. Two lovers are separated when the Berlin Wall goes up in 1961; one escapes through the sewers to the West, the other hesitates and stays put. During the next 30 years they see each other four times, once in Prague in 1968 as the Russian tanks roll in, when a child is conceived.

“The way to grab an audience is to make your film in Hollywood”

By the time the Wall comes down they have become different people, and there is no thread for them to pick up.

Returning to German material after a largely unrewarding period in Italy, von Trotta has crafted a competent, glossy production. It is never dull, exactly; but for all the telling details of compromised lives in divided Berlin, the film tends to glide past the viewer's eyes without penetrating. The jagged edges of von Trotta's earliest films have gone. Her camera moves are velvet smooth, and the players, led by Meret Becker and Anian Zollner, lack the panache to make their story of great interest to the international audience the film seems to want.

Judging by the response of Berlin's international press, the one way to grab an audience's complete attention is to make your film in Hollywood. Of the films shown in competition so far, the one to elicit the largest audience has been Robert Benton's *Nobody's Fool*, an entertaining slice of smalltown Americana starring Paul Newman. The blue-eyed charmer is 70 this year — a little older than his character, Sully, a limping loser in a town of losers.

Bruce Willis, the building contractor who gives him work, actually calls him “Schmucko”. Schmucko? Paul Newman?

Despite this basic contradiction, Newman gets under the character's skin superbly. So do Willis, Melanie Griffiths, the late Jessica Tandy and the rest of the players, variously cast as disappointed wives, kindly landladies, incompe-



Trabants to the left of them, Trabants to the right of them, volley and thunder: the Berlin Wall has fallen, and the city is united as East legally meets West in *The Promise*

tent lawyers, bald-headed cops and estranged sons, gathered together in the wintry streets of North Bath, New York State. The characters, in fact, matter more than the plot. Mood, too, is all important: chiefly a benevolent acceptance of human frailty. For these reasons alone, *Nobody's Fool* will probably fare poorly at the world's box office.

Benton's film will perform better, however, than Varda's *A Hundred and One Nights*, a celebration of cinema's achievement that made even Berlin's film buffs shift in their seats. Considering the skill and charm Varda has lavished on documentary memorials to her partner Jacques Demy, the film's failure may be thought surprising. But Varda's story line — concerning Simon Cinéma, an aged, white-faced gent played by Michel Piccoli, who believes he is cinema personified — would be enough to sabotage

any director. Prodigious sources were gathered up: a mountain of clips from mostly European films, a galaxy of stars playing themselves, from Marcello Mastroianni to a clearly bemused Harrison Ford. Then Varda throws them all away in whimsical snatches which reach the height of stupidity when Catherine Deneuve and Robert De Niro, bickering away like husband and wife, lull about in a swan boat.

An hour after the Varda finished, the press corps was subjected to Reitz's *The Night of the Film-makers*. Nightmare would be more appropriate. Its essence is simple. More than 20 German film-makers, from that prickly dragon Leni Riefenstahl to modern masters from both the West and East, offer thoughts on their country's cinema, with illustrations. But the fancy style of presentation keeps interfering with the material, and the film

never rises above the level of annoyance.

New cinema voices have been hard to detect in Berlin's babble. But Marius Holst, a 35-year-old from Norway, has started out well with an attractive first film, *Cross My Heart and Hope to Die*, entered in competition. This was the most popular Norwegian film at the local box office last year, although the smallness of its story — about a schoolboy's traumatic summer — will probably restrict its foreign exposure.

Newly favoured directors are back in Berlin with their latest work: Hong Kong's Stanley Kwan, who dazzled all eyes with his ghost story *Rouge*, is represented by *Red Rose*. *White Rose*, adapted from a novel about a Shanghai man in the 1930s, torn between his passionate lover and his noble, innocent wife. The first half bowls along with

sumptuous shots through rain-swept windows, glass-panelled doors and the like. Then, as the story slots into a melodramatic pattern, the film slowly stagnates. Sterling acting, though, especially from Veronica Yip and Joan Chen.

More fresh air blows through the new film by Richard Linklater, who chronicled America's idle youth in *Slacker* and *Dazed and Confused*. In *Before Sunrise* he takes a big jump forward: instead of a mosaic of characters, he concentrates on two — a French student and an American — who meet on a European train and decide to spend the day exploring Vienna and each other. Sustaining a film through two people walking and talking is a high-risk enterprise, but Linklater's sympathetic understanding and his

likeable players, Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy, reduce the risk to a minimum.

While all these films have unfolded in the official festival, the European Film Market has been showering potential buyers with unknown quantities made by people you have never heard of, and will never hear of again. For these, your only guides are the descriptions in the catalogue. “A parable whose action, set in Poland, Switzerland and Paris, is linked with the mythical motif of the frog” (*A Frog's Leap*, from Poland). “A musical film about an inquisitive young saxophone player” (*It Also Snows in Paradise*, from Lithuania). “A study of a dysfunctional dairy-farming family in a perpetually dark, wet and cold corner of southern Wisconsin” (*Blessing*, from America). I saw none of them.

## Revenge for the caste of millions

Is *Bandit Queen* a brave stand against India's treatment of women, or the cheap exploitation of a real life?

No matter what it was that might have happened between Dr Aziz and Adela Quested in Forster's *A Passage to India*, it was nothing when compared to what did happen to Phoolan Devi.

She was a lower-caste Indian bride at 11, but ran away from the brutal husband to whom her parents had sold her. She fell into banditry. She was kidnapped by rival dacoits and gang-raped. She was implicated in the revenge massacre of two dozen of these higher-caste bandits, who were linked both to her rapists and to the murder of her lover: it made headlines as the biggest bandit shootout in recent Indian history.

Devi, the Bandit Queen, became a feminist legend. She and her otherwise all-male gang stole, killed and kidnapped, but they also helped peasants who had sheltered and fed them, and they protected child brides from bullies. Shops in India sold Devi dolls, laced with bandoliers.

Eventually, she surrendered — in front of thousands of cheering supporters and newspaper photographers. A year ago this week, she was released from an 11-year spell in prison, falling eagerly into the myth-massaging embrace of media celebrity.

Devi has now had a chilling film made of her life. Financed by Channel 4, *Bandit Queen* has won over audiences at film festivals from Cannes to Toronto. But Devi has tried to ban the film: she says it exploits her and invades her privacy (“They are raping me all over again and selling me on the screen,” she says). Now 32, Devi says she wants to go into politics.

India's censors have refused to bless the film uncensored. Officially this is because it is too violent and vulgar, because it shows rape and full nudity, and woman-on-top sex (Seema Biswas, the actress playing these scenes, had a nervous breakdown when it came to breaking all). Unofficially, the film has run into trouble because it paints a grim picture of the fate of women in rural India and of the injustices of the caste system.

Remember, this is not a plot spun by the fevered imagination of a Hollywood, or even a Bollywood, scriptwriter. So what kind of plot is it? A spaghetti western about a woman wronged who goes out to settle the score? A *Bonnie and Clyde* adventure of bandits on the run? A gory Sam Peckinpah shoot-out? Is this woman Robin Hood? Or Rambo? Or Gloria Steinem with attitude?

“People say all of those things,” says the director Shekhar Kapur, who came to England 25 years ago to study accountancy and went home eight years later to escape balance sheets and learn about film-making in Bombay. “But I think most people say, ‘But I think most people realise this is a film about the relationship between men and women. I’ve heard men coming out saying they feel slightly ashamed to be a man.’”

Kapur's previous two directorial adventures were family entertainment for the Indian market. So of all the films in all the world, why make this one? “Because here, on one level, I could tell the larger truth about the caste system, and, on a universal level, I could tell something about men's attitude to women,” Kapur says. “In parts of India



“The film doesn't romanticise Phoolan Devi. We don't justify what she did,” Shekhar Kapur, director of *Bandit Queen*

it is not politically incorrect for higher-caste men to rape lower-caste women. That's not to say it isn't illegal to rape, just that nobody gets convicted for it. There are laws to protect the lower castes, but they're totally ignored.

When the higher castes — there are higher and lower castes even in the world of banditry — feel the slightest bit threatened, they rape the women of the lower castes,” Kapur says. “It's a way of showing domination, of saying: ‘We've shamed your women and therefore the honour of your community.’”

“But what exactly is this shame? This is the only crime in the world where the victim carries the blame. What I try to do is take the sexuality out of rape and show it as an act of violent domination.”

Kapur reckons that Devi has been smart in milking the media, particularly the urban Indian media. Having never clapped eyes on Devi, they turned her into a raven-haired, blue-eyed, Amazonian beauty, when she is, in fact, small and rather unremarkable. But what makes her stand out, says Kapur, is that “she is the woman who did not accept the consequences of shame and humiliation when she was raped. She rejected being the second sex.”

“The film doesn't romanticise her. We do not justify what she did, or suggest that taking violent revenge is the answer. What makes her interesting is that she fought back. Why? Because there was a quirk in her character, a rebelliousness. This happens to millions of Indian women, who don't fight back.”

JOE JOSEPH

Bandit Queen is reviewed tomorrow, and released on Friday

JAZZ: Sublime sounds come in different sizes from Westbrook and Weber

## One big band deserves a solo

Towards the end of the sell-out concert featuring his 20-piece big band, Mike Westbrook thanked his audience at the Blackheath Concert Halls for the quality of its attention to what he described as “this wonderful music”.

In cold print, this might seem immodest, since the 58-year-old composer had himself written much of the three hours' worth of music his band had just performed, but it was patently obvious at the time that he was merely expressing his heartfelt gratitude, not only to the band which had played so magnificently, but also to its listeners for their contribution to a memorable evening.

During much of the concert — when he wasn't actually playing the piano or conducting — Westbrook effectively transformed himself into an audience member, sitting, eyes shut, on his piano stool, luxuriating in the sound of his orchestra.

And well he might, for it was quite superb, whether playing selections from *On Duke's Birthday*, Westbrook's suite dedicated to the memory of his chief inspiration Duke Ellington; providing tastefully exuberant versions of big-band classics such as Lionel Hampton's *Flying Home*; or leaving the mix by collaborating with singer Kate Westbrook on songs taken from full-length Westbrook works such as *The Cortège* and *London Bridge is Broken Down*.

Although the spirit of Ellington infuses the suite dedicated to him, the actual music is unmistakably — indeed vintage — Westbrook. Beginning the concert with *Checking in at Hotel Le Prieure* and revisiting other parts of the work throughout the evening, Westbrook's orchestra not only faithfully reproduced all its subtleties — its affectingly wistful cadences, its plush muted brass arrangements —

but also joyously exploited its vivacious energy, whether through straightforward virtuoso soloing or roaring ensemble work.

The classics — among them Ellington's *It Don't Mean a Thing*, *Croole Love Call* and *East Saint Louis Toodle-oo*, along with Neal Hefti's gently romantic *Lil' Darlin'* — were so faultlessly played, and went down so well with the Blackheath audience, that it seems safe to assert that Westbrook could make quite a decent living simply pushing the pleasure buttons of big-band nostalgia.

But, as his career amply demonstrates — he has produced a body of work embracing everything from opera through settings of Kate Westbrook's song cycles to jazz suites and cabaret — he is, luckily for all lovers of innovative and original music, thoroughly committed to maintaining his reputation as the UK's foremost jazz composer.

Anybody who has doubts about the ability of a bassist playing solo to attract and retain an audience's interest has clearly never been exposed to a performance by 55-year-old Stuttgart-born virtuoso Eberhard Weber.

Playing a specially designed five-string instrument, and utilising an electronic delay/echo machine capable of feeding, say, five-second musical passages back to him, he has, in his own words, “dragged the instrument out of that murky cellar” where it is capable of producing “only dark, low tones”, and enabled himself to “invent, add on, underlay and fade out a vast array of sounds, rhythms, notes or chords, according to the inspiration of the moment”.

The result of this innovative approach is Weber's much vaunted “bass as orchestra”.

easily capable — as he proved to a sell-out Queen Elizabeth Hall — of leaving an audience still demanding encores after more than 90 minutes of music. Typically, he will begin a piece by laying down a foundation — which can range from a drone to a repeated rhythmic or melodic figure — and then improvising over it.

Thus, in *Pendulum* — the title track of his 1993 solo ECM album — he established backing tracks ranging from the startlingly deep, long-sustained booms associated with faraway underground explosions to lightly plucked harmonics. Over them he then played either fingered solos which exploited his celebrated gift for creating unashamedly romantic melodies, steeped in poignant melancholy, or used a bow to produce a variety of skittering high notes and unusual, abrasive textures.

In *Delirium*, another selection from the same album, Weber laid down a D-note

drone (hence the tune's punning title) and, after bowing a brief but eerily atmospheric improvisation over it, used his fingers to produce a resonant, singing sound somewhat reminiscent of that produced by the late Jaco Pastorius.

On a few tunes — notably a rollicking piece, *Just a Moment*, described as “silly but difficult” by Weber — he would rely solely on real-time playing of propulsive energy to generate interest, or delve into the jazz historical repertoire of the instrument, from simple walking basslines to contemporary hammered funk effects.

But it was the intensely lyrical compositions such as *Children's Song No 1* which his audience had clearly come to hear, and Weber, as consummate an entertainer as he is a uniquely gifted bassist, didn't get where he is today by disappointing his audiences.

CHRIS PARKER

### PICK HOLLY IN MARCH

LONDON  
Victoria Palace  
March 9

THE TIMES  
**THEATRE CLUB**

ONE of last year's most popular Theatre Club events was the post-show party with the cast of the hit musical *Buddy*.

The fact that the show has now been running longer than Holly's own recording career is proof of the enduring charm of songs such as *Rave On*, *Peggy Sue*, *Oh Boy* and *True Love Ways*, as well as of a story that began in the small town of Lubbock, Texas, and ended — it ever did end — in a plane crash one snowy night in February, 1959.

*Buddy* is a must-see for everyone who loves rock'n'roll, and the thing on the cake is the chance to go backstage, and meet the stars over a drink after the show. Tickets for a top-price seat are £16 (normally £25). To book, ring 0171-934 1371 quoting your membership of the Theatre Club, or call 0206 791737 for more. For general enquiries telephone 0171-937 9675.







# Truk arrives with shock absorbers

**RADIO: After all the hype about shock-jocks, Peter Barnard finds Talk Radio UK aiming to be more BBC than the Beeb**

The compilers of Trivial Pursuit will want to know that the answer is 6.26am, assuming that the question is: at what time did Britain's first national commercial talk station receive its first call from a listener?

Dave was his name and he wished to say: "I can never understand why people celebrate St Valentine's Day, right? Because there was a massacre on that day, right?"

Six hours of continuous listening may be no basis for a definitive judgment of Truk but it can be said that the gap between hype and reality has not been so large since John Major announced that he intended to govern the country.

Far from being controversial and provocative, on the evidence of its opening half-day, Truk is banal and predictable. We are promised outrageous material from, among others, Caesar the Geezer in a late-night slot, but I heard Caesar's live test transmission the night before the launch. He spent a lot of time saying "I love you" to callers and only became "controversial" when he told someone working for the station to "bugger off". Wow.

But back, or forward, to the morning show, which is called *The Dish* and runs from 6 to 10am. Today it ain't. The presenters are Samantha Meah and Sean Bolger, the latter a former Channel 4 continuity announcer.

Much of the show consists of Sean and Samantha talking to each other, for example about the vexed question of a single currency. Sean favours a single currency provided the Queen's head stays on British coins but Samantha is not so sure: "Why not David Bowie's head?"

There is news, weather and traffic every half hour, but all of these added together occupy a fraction of the time devoted to an interview with a man who owns a chocolate shop: "Chocolate is not fattening... except mass-produced chocolate."

There are also time checks, but these are woven into the fabric of the show: "Cathartic, that's a big word for ten past seven in the morning," and "I can't be dealing with all this at twenty past eight in the morning."

No politicians intrude, and apart from the non-fat chocolate

man and interviews with other Truk presenters and some callers, there are few outside voices.

Truk is intended to appeal to the 25 to 45-year-olds. If it does, at least in the early morning when talk radio is supposed to be strongest, then one must seriously worry about whether that age group is ever to be properly informed.

But let us beware of having no truck with Truk, for Scott Chisholm's three-hour programme starting at 10am promises to be

"more fibre than fruit" (to invert one of Truk's dismal slogans). Chisholm, the combative former Sky News presenter, shows little sign of being the kind of far-right "shock-jock" which Truk's publicity promises — or threatens — and was commendably calm in raising the issue of Euro immigration yesterday.

Trouble is, the better it got, the less it resembled what Truk supposedly sets out to be. The publicity attacked everything from the BBC's middle-class agenda to the BBC's middle-class voices, yet there are twice as many regional accents among *Today* presenters as there are on *The Dish*. Chisholm's voice is pure Radio 4. Dr David Starkey, coming on Satur-



Caesar the Geezer: he loves you

days, is, and sounds like, an academic, and so on.

So the real distinguishing marks of Truk are that there is little variety of programme format and you can phone it up, all day long. Is that enough?

## Is the contest test or con?

**ARCHITECTURE: The Cardiff Opera House shambles could become par for the course, says Marcus Binney**

For five years the re-train has been the same: if Britain wants better buildings it must have more architectural competitions. Yet no sooner are the competitions under way than cries of "foul" are heard on every side.

At Cardiff there was outrage that a publicly announced winner was forced to compete anew against other finalists. Even though Zaha Hadid has now been reconfirmed as winner, the fierce local opposition to her plans for the new opera house looks set to continue. At Windsor Castle, meanwhile, the losers are up in arms because their designs have not been given full showing alongside the chosen design. One of them, Roderick Grady, has just held his own personal "Salon de Refusés" at the Art Workers Guild in London.

In one sense, this is merely a predictable replay of the squabbling over competitions for the Foreign Office and the Law Courts in the 19th century, which eventually brought the whole system into disrepute. In another way, however, it is a real abuse of architects' time and talent.

Yet the squabbling is bound to grow as both EU rules and National Lottery guidelines demand more and more competitions. Architect Ian Ritchie says: "In Britain we have been invited to enter just two competitions in the past 15 years. Suddenly it's mushroomed to eight in the past four months."

The cost of entering a large number of competitions can be crippling: a good architectural model can cost as much as £20,000. On the Continent it is usual to pay finalists a fee. In Britain this is rarely so.

though Windsor Castle was a significant exception.

Moreover, too many competitions appear to be just window-dressing. The client may already have decided on a name, probably a big one if lottery funds are crucial to the project. Recently, Sir Norman Foster has won the British Museum competition, Sir Richard Rogers the South Bank and Sir Michael Hopkins the Manchester City Art Gallery extension. Other entrants are left wondering if they ever had a chance.

The architects Evans and Shalev have competed in 33 competitions, winning eight and coming second in 12. It is a golden record, but their reward is just four buildings. "We are never going to do another competition," Eldred Evans said after the Manchester result.

Basically, there are two kinds of competition: open and invited. Open competitions provide the all-important first opportunity for young talent. The underlying principle is that all compete on equal terms. However, things go wrong — as they did at Cardiff — when the client tries to beef up the competition by inviting in big names halfway through the selection process.

The main purpose of competitions, you might think, is to produce winners. But clients can be unhappy with juries' choices. For this reason, one type of Royal Institute of British Architects competition allows the client to choose the architect from a shortlist of three put forward unranked by the jury. Equally, the Cardiff Bay Opera House

Trust was within its rights, for all the furore, to turn to the runners-up under the rules. The mistake lay in announcing a winner before everyone involved in financing and supporting the project had agreed upon the choice.

History demonstrates that competitions only work if the client is not only bound by the result but happy with it. The client must be convinced that the design will function well, that it can be built on time and on budget, that there will be a good working relationship with the architect and that the proposals will gain the all-important planning approval.

The client must have a strong presence on the panel of assessors. The Tate's ten assessors for its Bankside development included the director Nicholas Serota, three past and present trustees, and Joan Bakewell for the Friends of the Tate. As a result, the Tate's chairman, Dennis Stevenson, was able to state categorically that there was no question of Cardiff-style shenanigans.

The National Lottery introduces a new dimension to competitions. It is the public's own money that is being spent, and many lottery projects will also be dependent on further local fundraising. So it is crucial that the organisers can carry local opinion. In fact, the public has never been so clearly the client as well as the consumer.

Fear of public opinion is based on the idea that the public at large is "Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells", manically opposed to anything novel, adventurous or unusual. Yet Cardiff shows the opposite is the case. Both the alternative designs, by Nicoletti and



Zaha Hadid was forced to compete twice with her design for the new Cardiff Opera House

Hasegawa, are at least as futuristic as those by Hadid.

Richard Rogers's design for the National Gallery extension was at once the most popular and unpopular with the public, and might actually have been built if the president of RIBA at the time, Owen Luder, had not claimed that it was simply raising two fingers to London.

Competitions also run much more smoothly if, as at

Bankside, the main purpose is to choose an architect, not a design. John Outram has decided this is the way to go. "I no longer do quantities of beautifully finished drawings. Clients choose the architects they like as people. I prefer the beauty-contest approach where they simply interview you and look at your buildings."

Jesus College, Cambridge, recently adopted a variant of

this approach. Initially the college wrote to 30 architects. Six were chosen for further study and the selection committee visited the architects in their offices to interview them. Two finalists were chosen and were paid a fee to draw up a detailed scheme while the committee visited their buildings. This way, the client has a genuine choice and nobody is left feeling aggrieved or exploited at the end.

sorely tested, admittedly by Warner rather than Mussorgsky).

The greatest single pleasure was the seraphic smile on the face of Gennadi Rozhdestvensky as he drew playing from the RCM Opera Orchestra of such confidence and accomplishment that one scarcely believed they were students.

There are some promising singers: Aled Hall, a free-toned, mellifluous tenor hero; Tomas Tomasson as the father, a rich, closely focused bass who sang unsparingly loudly; Paul Robinson, a baritone with a real feel for musical phrase as one of the drunks. As the heroine, Fiona MacDonald concentrated on volume at the expense of steadiness and roundness of tone — she shouldn't.

RODNEY MILNES

## OPERA: Students overstep the mark, and in Russian

### Serving a bit of a borscht

act that is all words. The probability of their not having a clue about what is going on will be increased by Keith Warner's old-fashioned production, of the flying bedstead tendency.

Mussorgsky's opera is based on one of Gogol's Dikanka tales, but the curtain rises on what might be a semi in Accrington. Little girl is ill in bed, attended by doctor; someone gives her a book of Ukrainian folk tales; bed flies up in the air, and

**The Fair at Sorochintsi**  
Royal College of Music

Marie-Jeanne Lecca's pleasingly Chagallian decor is temporarily revealed. But little girl's parents are played throughout as Andy Capp and Florrie in the semi instead of Cherevik and Khivrya in the Ukraine. Enough, already — this is all silly beyond words.

But musically there are rich rewards. This is Mussorgsky's most lyrical score, at least in Tcherenpina's completion, full of gorgeous tunes for the young lovers (I mean doctor and patient) and rumbustious comedy, at times suggesting a Russian Offenbach.

The only problem, for about 20 minutes in Act II, is just how funny drunks are, and I suppose Mussorgsky should know (that is below the belt, but my patience was

THERE are one or two odd things about the London Royal Schools' vocal faculty's production of Mussorgsky's rustic comedy, *The Fair at Sorochintsi*. First, it is sung in Russian (three English translations exist). Perhaps the students, downhearted at the decline in work prospects here, are all planning to apply for jobs in Russian opera houses, not having been warned that things are even worse there. That their mentors should concentrate on helping them sing their own language to audiences who understand it would of course be too obvious and banal a course of action.

Doubtless regular audiences at the RCM are all fluent in Russian, but I should warn any less privileged outsiders that they will have a pretty thin time of it, especially in a second

**TIPPETT FESTIVAL: The Nash Ensemble at Cripplegate, and the Triple Concerto at the Barbican**

## Songs from Shakespeare

MUSIC for Shakespeare was contrasted with music for a school celebration in another of the early-evening programmes at St Giles, Cripplegate, associated with the Barbican's Tippett festival. The Nash Ensemble was conducted by Andrew Parrott, who, with Roger Savage, devised a new sequence from the incidental music and songs that Tippett wrote for a production of *The Tempest* at the Old Vic in 1962 — now with the title *The Elements be Free*. These words come from Prospero's farewell to Ariel at the end of the play, and it is that "tricky spirit" whose lines mostly serve to link the music, which includes the three songs for Ariel which Tippett published separately. They were sung with clarity and grace by the tenor Charles

Daniels, while actor Simon Russell Beale spoke the text between and occasionally over the music.

Once or twice the length of speeches in a work now lasting some 35 minutes threatened to overbalance music which — the songs apart — was never more than fragmentary. In the scoring for wind instruments with harp, harpsichord and percussion, it was all pleasantly diverting without achieving much feeling of substance except in the masque-music.

This was preceded by *Crown of the Year*, a cantata for female voices, composed for the 1986 centenary of Badminton School, Bristol. Christopher Fry's poetic conceit of verses relating to four queens, from the first Elizabeth to the second, and to the four sea-



Tippett still celebrating

sons, prompted Tippett to a decorative musical setting in which style and sentiment are ingeniously related.

Catherine King's mezzo singing of the "Autumn" verse was notably warm and eloquent after she had been joined by soprano Judith Rees in the duet for "Summer". The New London Chamber Choir, here represented by 16 female voices, brought both sensitivity and assurance to the rest.

NOEL GOODWIN

## At ease in paradise

THE paradise vision of the Triple Concerto began this instalment in the London Symphony Orchestra's survey, for his 90th birthday, of the work of Sir Michael Tippett. When, next week, we hear the world premiere of his latest and by all accounts last orchestral piece, *The Rose Lake*, will we witness such rapture in song and sound, such rampant celebration? This work, from 1980, is Tippett's finest instrumental achievement, a potent marriage of medium and message which collects ideas and impulses as if pebbles on a beach, and assembles and disperses them in a brilliant and impressive mosaic.

In many ways, I thought as I listened to this marvellous performance, the work functions technically through the tensions of extreme opposites and primarily through the interplay of motion and stasis. None of Tippett's music seems more static or more lovely

than the gorgeously indulgent slow movement, which evokes the sounds of the gamelan and so offers a perspective of time quite different from that usual among Westerners. But there are other contrasts; that of orchestra and soloists is emphasised by soloistic passages of quasi-improvisatory lyricism and by "pairings off" between various soloists and orchestral instruments — again a timeless freedom within a time-defined structure. Tautness comes from the opposition of Tippett's taut, twisty contrapuntal writing and his bold, fanfarist statements, although the one often leads imperceptibly into the other.

All this the composer contains within a seamless fast-slow-fast sequence linked by two interludes, which work like the "dissolves" in his opera *The Knot Garden*, magically taking day into night into the glorious, exuberant

day of a finale that closes by fragmenting in celebration. Like Beethoven, Tippett writes music that represents his philosophy. Despite his sometimes convoluted verbal musings, it is not very complex: it is one of love for Man and for what this beautiful world is or could be.

Sir Colin Davis conducted a fine reading, gritty but sure-footed and, where necessary, beautifully rich, which gave the lie to the old chestnut of Tippett's music approaching technical unfeasibility. The three soloists, Alexander Bartschik, Edward Vanderspar and Moray Welsh, combined personality with a natural sympathy for their colleagues.

After the interval, Elgar's First Symphony, was, in Davis's hands, of immense power and vision — as carefully paced, glorious and insightful as his Sibelius.

STEPHEN PETTIT

## THE TIMES



Happy to play for 20p: Manchester's Hallé Orchestra

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The Hallé has four concerts on offer and you can claim a 20p ticket for each of them, provided you book all tickets at the same time. This Sunday, February 19, John Currie conducts Haydn's *The Creation* and on February 23 Ole Schmidt conducts Franco Gulli in Beethoven's *Violin Concerto*. Kent Nagano takes the baton for the final two concerts in our offer, on March 5 and 9. The concerts include works by Brahms, Berlioz and Bartok.

A full list of concerts in London was printed on February 7 and a list of regional concerts was printed yesterday. To book your 20p tickets, collect six tokens from *The Times* and telephone the number given in the listing. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for 20p.

















# Ramprakash helps to level series England A stand one win away from tour double

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

AN INNINGS of high quality by Mark Ramprakash, whose 70 was the highest score of the match, after a terrific display in the field, enabled the touring England A cricket team to win the second game in the three-match one-day series against India A in Ahmedabad yesterday. Having won the international series 3-0, England A will hope to complete the double with victory in the final limited-overs game, in Hyderabad tomorrow.

Victory yesterday by three wickets, with eight balls to spare, went some way towards sweetening the bad taste left by their controversial six-run defeat at Indore on Saturday. That had been England A's first tour defeat, and Alan Wells's side had been determined to bounce back.

Fine bowling and fielding, Ramprakash's anchor innings and other important contributions with the bat from David Hemp and Jason Gallian completed a comfortable win, complicated only during the last half-hour when Paul Weekes

gave his wicket away, and then by what appeared to be a terrible leg-before decision against Dominic Cork.

Richard Johnson swiftly ended any doubts about the result when he came in to drive Atul Wassan straight for four and guide England A home in company with Keith Piper.

Earlier, India A had been restricted to 207 for eight from their 50 overs as Cork, Weekes, Gallian and Patel bowled well. The total was at least 20 runs short of par on a good batting pitch, a fact underlined by Hemp and Ramprakash in a positive second-wicket stand of 75.

Hemp, the left-hander, unfurled some majestic strokes in his 41, made off 53 balls, while Ramprakash steadied the side after the loss of Michael Vaughan for a duck to the second ball of the innings.

When Hemp was bowled behind his legs, aiming a careless sweep, Wells came in to help Ramprakash to add a

further 50, and when Wells drove to long-off, Gallian's pugnacious approach threatened to take England swiftly to their target. Then Ramprakash nicked a catch behind to make it 160 for four, but Gallian continued to play forcefully, and it was a surprise when he was seventh out, trying for a boundary over mid-wicket. The Lancashire opener had scored 46 from 43 balls, hitting five fours and an extraordinary straight six, executed with a stiff-arm push through the ball.

The powerfully-built Gallian has been working hard to lose weight and increase his athleticism and, with his solid contribution with ball and bat,

## SCOREBOARD

INDIA A	
18 S Digne c Piper b Cork	0
19 V S Rathore b Patel	28
20 A A Muzumbar c Ramprakash	28
21 R S David run out	69
22 R S Shastri c Ramprakash	57
23 A S Vasan b Weekes	10
24 R Puri c Wells b Weekes	0
25 U Chatterjee not out	10
26 P K Mahapatra c Piper b Patel	10
27 S A Arora not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 6, w 4, nb 5)	19
Total (8 wickets)	207

ENGLAND A	
M P Vaughan c Chatterjee b Mahapatra	0
D L Hemp b Chatterjee	41
M R Ramprakash c Digne b Arora	70
M R Gallian c Vasan b Chatterjee	46
J E R Gallian c Rathore b Mahapatra	5
P N Weekes c Digne b Chatterjee	5
G G Cork b D Wassen	1
K J Piper not out	7
R L Johnson not out	7
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 3, nb 1)	9
Total (7 wickets, 48.4 overs)	208

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-54, 3-151, 4-181, 5-182, 6-183, 7-190, 8-206.  
BOWLING: Cork 10-3-31-1; Johnson 4-0-24-0; Gallian 10-1-31-0; Patel 9-1-30-2; Weekes 10-0-55-4; Salford 7-0-41-1.

# Intikhab dismisses corruption claims

BY SIMON WILDE

PAKISTAN'S cricketers were asked to swear on the Koran that they were not involved in betting before they left for their present tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe, it emerged yesterday.

The Pakistani authorities made the request in response to what were described as "ugly rumours" by Intikhab Alam, the team manager. "There was so much going on from all corners that, yes, this was done," Intikhab said yesterday in Harare, where the decisive third Test match with Zimbabwe starts today. "We just wanted to make sure because there are so many ugly rumours."

Allegations of attempted bribery and illegal betting in matches involving India and Pakistan were common long before the charges that came out of Australia in the past few days. Often, the accusations came from embittered supporters unable to come to terms with their team's defeat, and nothing has ever been proved.

Perhaps the Pakistan management should have made public its unorthodox course of action, because unexpected-

ly heavy Test defeats by South Africa and Zimbabwe during the past month have only led to renewed allegations of corruption. They are charges vigorously denied by Intikhab and Javed Burki, chairman of the ad hoc committee running Pakistan cricket.

"I know that we lost the first match against Zimbabwe," Intikhab said yesterday. "But we played badly in that match so we picked it up and the second Test we won in less than three days. There is no truth in it. I will keep on saying these are all false allegations unless they come out with concrete evidence."

Burki said: "I am quite confident that nobody in the Pakistan team took money to deliberately perform badly. I don't think it is possible for cricketers to throw a match. Besides, there is no one in this team who is certain of a place in the World Cup. They are all struggling, so how can they go out there and not play well?"

Burki said that he would be discussing recent bribery allegations with David Richards, chief executive of the International Cricket Council, next Monday.

he did not look out of place in a top-quality England fielding display.

Wells said: "Having someone of Jason's ability coming in at No 5 was just the boost we needed in the middle order. He has been working very hard on his bowling and he's well aware of how important that extra string to his bow could be."

"I'm very pleased indeed with our performance. We got our focus back as individuals and as a team following Saturday's defeat. We are now looking forward to trying to win the series at Hyderabad. It will be fun playing under lights and with coloured clothing there."

# Renewed strength will spur mature McColgan

BY JOHN GOODBODY

A MORE mature Liz McColgan said yesterday that she is stronger than ever after recovering from the series of injuries which threatened her running career. She is, already, Britain's greatest female long-distance runner.

McColgan will be heading the British challenge at the NutraSweet London Marathon on April 2, and has been training in Florida in an attempt to recover her former dominance at the classic distance.

"I am stronger than I have ever been, and I am enjoying my running more because of what I have been through," she said.

McColgan, the 1991 world 10,000 metres champion, won the 1991 New York (2hr 27min 32sec) and 1992 Tokyo marathons (2hr 27min 38sec), before succumbing to knee troubles. She missed the whole of 1993 and most of 1994.

She admits that she ignored the advice of her husband, Peter, an international steeplechaser, to reduce the intensity of her training and paid the penalty.

"Peter was bending over backwards to try to stop me, but I did not listen to him," she said.

However, now 30, McColgan believes that she is not so closed to other people's ideas. "I know I have to pick and choose races more carefully," she said. "I am older and wiser. I can see where I went wrong and I realise how close I came to losing it all."

She said that she still had some trouble from a damaged toe, but this was something with which she would have to live for the rest of her career in athletics. The toe is not particularly painful and does not prevent her from training.

McColgan faces a stiff test in April, when the London



McColgan, claiming to be stronger than ever, announced her plans in London yesterday

field will include Katrin Dörre, the winner for the last three years, Lisa Ondieki, the runner-up in 1993 and 1994, and Manuela Machado, from Portugal, who won the European title last year.

McColgan then hopes to run the 10,000 metres at the world championships in Gothenburg, before concentrating entirely on the marathon in 1996, first in London and then at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

McColgan has been training in Florida for the last month and will return to the United States today. She will compete in the prestigious Gasparilla 15-kilometre road race on Saturday and then

continue her preparation for April 2. She said that she was now doing a higher mileage than in 1991, but she believed that she was structuring her training better than before.

"I went from race to race," she said. "I tried to do the indoors, outdoors, country and roads, as well as training."

The winners of that tie will know their final opponents, as the Leopards complete their tie against the Tigers at Bracknell tonight. The London team will be expecting another significant tally from their new signing, DeCarlo Deveaux, a 6ft 5in Bahamian.

After making a nervous start to the first leg last week, Deveaux contributed 13 points to his team's six-point success and improved on that the next night, top-scoring with 28 points in the league victory over Derby Bucks.

# Sharks endeavour to avert slump

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE main question to be answered by basketball's National Cup semi-finals this week will not be "can the Leopards and Birmingham Bulls maintain their first-leg leads?" but "have Sheffield Sharks cracked?"

The Sharks' past three games suggest that all is not well with the Budweiser League leaders, whose only previous reverses this season had been to Doncaster Panthers in the league on September 25 and in the 7-Up Trophy final against Thames Valley Tigers last month.

The Sharks recovered well enough from losing the home leg against the Bulls last week by overcoming Worthing Bears on Saturday, only to lose at home to Manchester Giants on Sunday. The signs are there that the league coaches who, at Christmas, forecast a Sheffield slump are about to be proved right.

The compensation of a cup final appearance on March 5, in the Sheffield Arena, a

stone's throw from their own court at Ponds Forge, will also vanish should the Sharks fail to make up their one-point deficit against the Bulls in the National Indoor Arena on Friday. Jim Brandon, the coach of the Yorkshire club, sees no reason they should not progress.

"We allowed the Birmingham defeat to happen," he said. "Mentally we just weren't there. If we had to lose a game, that was the one because we have a second chance."

Willie Wood, the popular Scottish bowler, became the first seed to be eliminated when Neil Burkett, from Cape Town, made an excellent recovery to win 1-7, 5-7, 3-7, 7-1, 7-5.

Burkett's play was extremely wayward at the start, but he tightened things up in skilful fashion, and deserved his success. This was his first experience of the sets game, of which he expressed unqualified approval.

Results, page 42



## COURAGE BEST WEEKLY SCORE

With an unusually high proportion of points coming from low-rated kickers on Saturday, selectors needed one or more of just seven scoring forwards to get any sort of score at all. Mrs P Saverimuttu's team, Savvy Superstars, included no fewer than four of those forwards and their score of 738 rated points not only takes this week's prize but also lifts them to second place in the league table.

Mrs Saverimuttu will no doubt be as pleased with her performance as her son Chris was when his team, Sale, beat Northampton on Saturday. She wins two cases of Courage Best and a fully-installed BT Satellite system.

Her nominated club is Oldershaw RFC. They win five cases of Courage beer, a Courage Best England shirt and a ball signed by the England team.

Still leading overall is Mr Steve Blake, who informs us, with a touch of irony, that his own club, Marlow RFC in Buckinghamshire, ousted him as chairman of selectors at the start of this season.

## THE LEADING 50 ENTRIES OVERALL

Pos	Team name	(Selector)	Week points	Cum points
1	Walsley Rovers	Mr Steve Blake	380	4467
2	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	728	4024
3	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	542	4183
4	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	500	4147
5	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	490	4074
6	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	480	4004
7	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	470	3934
8	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	460	3864
9	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	450	3794
10	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	440	3724
11	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	430	3654
12	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	420	3584
13	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	410	3514
14	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	400	3444
15	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	390	3374
16	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	380	3304
17	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	370	3234
18	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	360	3164
19	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	350	3094
20	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	340	3024

## THE LEADING 30 FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON

Pos	Team name	(Selector)	Week points	Cum points
1	Walsley Rovers	Mr Steve Blake	380	4467
2	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	728	4024
3	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	542	4183
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19	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	350	3094
20	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	340	3024

## THE SCORES FROM LAST SATURDAY'S LEAGUE GAMES AND CUMULATIVE POINTS TOTALS

Pos	Team name	(Selector)	Week points	Cum points
1	Walsley Rovers	Mr Steve Blake	380	4467
2	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	728	4024
3	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	542	4183
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19	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	350	3094
20	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	340	3024



## COURAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Pos	Team name	(Selector)	Week points	Cum points
1	Walsley Rovers	Mr Steve Blake	380	4467
2	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	728	4024
3	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	542	4183
4	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	500	4147
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19	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	350	3094
20	Walsley Rovers	Mr P Saverimuttu	340	3024









# Pre-natal surgery is not to be taken lightly

On a rock overlooking the Pacific Ocean, pine trees waving, a west-coast medical scientist searches his heart. This doctor is unusually frank and compassionate, he's got big sincere eyes, and he is evidently a hell of a guy. So, why does he perform life-threatening operations on babies still gestating in the womb — pulling them out a bit, cutting into their unborn bodies, and then pushing them back and sewing up the hole? Well, forget pure scientific curiosity in this case. This chap says he is a pioneer in fetal surgery for the simple reason that, despite the enormous risks to themselves, concerned parents won't let him stop. He doesn't sob, but it's a near thing. "You can't stop," he says. "Of course it's agonising for the parents when the experiment doesn't work. But it's just gotta work."

For anyone brave enough last night to watch Tracie Born, Deborah Cadbury's astounding *Horizon* (BBC 2), this Californian chap provided an interesting sub-plot. I mean, personally I believed all this bit about the parents being the driving force. Later, however, we saw the same doctor transfixed like H.G. Wells's Dr Moreau over the infinite possibilities of fetal transplants ("We have made chimerae. Bone marrow chimerae. Human to sheep, human to monkey, human to mouse. And they work — every time, as long as you do it at the right time in gestation"). And at this point it was rather hard to picture how those desperate distressed parents were really pushing him along, like a stalled car on a hill.

This was an extraordinary programme, unblinkingly direct in showing sharp knives, pulsing pink flesh, and dry-veined, unformed babies, in hospitals worldwide, being monstrously mucked about in the open air, in the name of progress. The pace was steady and unsensational. Janet Szustman's commentary never wavered, but the story was luscious and disgusting none the less. Scientists talked about living fetal tissue as if it was so much tapoca pudding. A Swedish surgeon coolly explained that in the interests of fetal transplantation, it will be necessary to conduct abortions so that bodies can be discarded and "harvested" while still alive. Then they pre-stir Spare limbs can be "cultured" (i.e. grown) and attached to other unborn babies as required. Just this little arms sprouting in dish around the lab. Perhaps they could perform an occasional Mexican wave to keep their spirits up.

St Valentine got less than his usual coverage this year, thank goodness. BBC 1 confined itself to *A Wild Romance*, a rather lurid-wildlife compilation

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

linked by a commentary from Siobhan Redmond. Ostensibly, this little film showed how traditional human courting and nuptial behaviour is mirrored in the natural world ("Shall we dance?" "Fancy an After Eight?" and so on), but ended up frankly much more useful the other way about. Modern women are wrong to forget the lessons of the female marsh heron. Before consenting to mate, they

should make demands, as she does. "A freshly caught vole, or the dead's off?" Oh yes. That's what the sheep from the goats.

In fact, the more Miles Barton's film banged on about the great qualities of loyal, sturdy, protective male animals, the more fed up I became, the more I frowned, and bit my lip. The male wren wants so badly to impress a female that he builds a dozen separate nests, all cosy and warm, and anxiously shows her around, pointing out the roominess and southern aspects, and hoping she'll say "Yes". Good grief. Evidently, evolution must continue for many millennia yet before the female wren wakes up one morning in her own nest to discover the male is making breakfast to the sound of Radio 4, and has parked his bike in her hall.

Obviously, there are many chaps in nature who are not such paragons as the home-loving wren, or the placid, cuckolded

puffin, or the saintly African antelope who keeps watch for danger (the signals red-alert to his family by whistling sharply down his nose, making a sound like a trapped bee). But on Valentine's Day, you must expect bias, you must expect doves being lovely. The real St Valentine was clubbed to death, you know. I just thought I'd mention that.

Half-hour drama series are popular, but I don't see the point, myself: no sooner has the story picked up momentum than the credits are rolling (generally rather quickly, as if it's a bore). A series such as *September Song* (ITV) suffers from the format. Now in its third series, Ken Blackwell's saga has a decent pair of harmless central characters in the comedian Billy (the excellent Michael Williams) and the oddy superfluous Ted (Russ Abbot); also the setting

of Cromer Pier is a cheerful one; and Billy's rivalry with the vicious star turn, Cyril Wendage (Frank Windsor) is enough to grip.

But it plods, it's slack, it neglects Ted, and at the end of 25 minutes, it stops. Also, where do all the audiences come from, for Billy's show? Look into the stalls during a matinee, and the house is packed with happy laughing people scan the promenade on a fine day and it's like the morning after the neutron bomb. Meanwhile Frank Windsor (bless him) injects all the energy (perhaps because he's not "bitersweet": he's jealous and conniving), and Russ Abbot grins and shrugs bravely on the sidelines, as if to say "No, I'm fine, carry on". Abbot models his trousers, haircut and windcheater to perfection, but clearly he is too polite to say what he's really thinking: that if he's not required on set, he could pop home and plane a door.

- BBC1**
- 6.00 Business Breakfast (48573)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (52610592)  
8.00 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (9138263)  
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7131592) 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (88780028)  
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1025318) 12.05 Pebble Mill (s) (2242660) 12.55 Regional News and weather (75324950)  
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (27931)  
1.30 News (Ceefax) (s) (82153115)  
2.15 Alias Smith and Jones. Light-hearted western adventures starring Pete Dinklage and Ben Murphy, with guest stars Patrick Macnee and Juliet Mills (s) (2056370)  
3.05 Glynis Christian's Entertaining Microwave. Three-course meal produced in a microwave (8551134) 3.20 Brilliant Gardens. Rula Lenska visits the Royal Garden at Kew (7481202)  
3.30 Cartoon (9584846) 3.45 Sick as a Parrot. Crossword puzzle game show, presented by Simon Davies (9574841) 4.00 Jackanory. Rak Mayall with the last part of *The Frog Prince* (s) (7481202) 4.15 The Really Wild Show with Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan and Howie Watkins in Arizona. (Ceefax) (s) (5642757) 5.00 Newsround (319612)  
5.05 The Bill (Ceefax) (s) (5557711)  
5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (807008). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster (Ceefax) (s) (51738)  
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (776)  
6.30 Regional news magazines (888)  
7.00 This Is Your Life. Michael Aspel emotionally mugs another unsuspecting worthy. (Ceefax) (s) (5825)  
7.30 Here and Now. Current affairs magazine (912)
- BBC2**
- 6.20 Open University: Reaching and Grasping (7696950) 6.45 The Necessity for History (807196) 7.10 San Francisco Remini: El Tempio Malatestiano (3415592) 7.35 Disappearing Childhood (2875080)  
8.00 Breakfast News (7530844) 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Trevor Phillips. The guest is Derek Lewis, Director-General of the Prison Service (s) (412384)  
9.00 Daytime on Two Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (2187688) 2.00 The GreedySaurus Gang (4169584) 2.05 Spider (41694115)  
2.10 Songs of Praise from Malmesbury Abbey, Wiltshire (s) (Ceefax) (s) (8355008)  
2.45 Myths and Legends. Garry Rice explores the myths and legends connected with the Stratford-upon-Avon area (s) (9086009)  
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (817467) 3.50 News (Ceefax) and weather (3813466)  
4.00 Today's Day. Recent history quiz (s) (641)  
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Innovative recipes (s) (825)  
5.00 Play It Again. Big band sounds and songs, introduced by Paul Jones (s) (8931)  
5.30 All in the Mind. Lateral thinking quiz, presented by Alison Holloway (405)  
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Science-fiction adventures. (Ceefax) (s) (527221)  
6.45 This is Garth Brooks. Top. The singer recorded at the Texas Stadium in Dallas (s) (189370)
- CHOICE**
- The Private Life of Plants* BBC1, 9.30pm  
Sir David Attenborough concludes his splendid series by showing how trees and flowers survive in the most hostile conditions. You would not bet on finding much vegetation in the frozen wastes of the Arctic, given that the usual essentials for plant life — water, nutrients, warmth and light — are in notably short supply. But trust Sir David's eagle eye to spot the algae and lichen and tiny flowers in the cracks between pebbles. Then it's off to the desert for more surprises. In Arizona and New Mexico, huge cacti thrive by storing several tons, yes tons, of water. As memorable as much for its time-lapse photography as its presenter's intrepid enthusiasm, and clearly owing much to a generous budget, the series ends with a message. We destroy plants, Sir David says, at our peril.
- CARLTON**
- 6.00 GMTV (1665573)  
9.25 Chain Letters (s) (4925554) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2184738)  
10.00 The Time...the Place (s) (4281405)  
10.35 This Morning (9325115) 12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1012202)  
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (4948009)  
12.55 Coronation Street (s). (Teletext) (4960238) 1.25 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial. (Teletext) (5150554)  
1.55 Capital Woman. Women's magazine. The guests include Newby Hands, beauty editor of *Harpers and Queen* (s) (8527983) 2.25 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (61916573) 2.50 Blue Heelers. Australian rural police drama series (9733134)  
3.20 ITN News headlines. (Teletext) (7492318) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7491688)  
3.30 Alphabet Castle (s) (s) (8580202) 3.40 Wizards (s) (s) (3811028) 3.50 Scooby Doo (7544196) 4.15 Rebeck (s) (7334849) 4.40 The Tomorrow People. (Teletext) (658478)  
5.10 After 5. (Teletext) (8612680)  
5.40 Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (957641)  
5.55 Your Show. Viewers' video soapbox (801979)  
6.00 Home and Away (s). (Teletext) (844)  
6.30 London Tonight with Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (196)  
7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers. Game show presented by Philip Schofield and Emma Forbes (s) (3221)
- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35 Sandokan (s) (8076912)  
7.00 The Big Breakfast (17554)  
9.00 You Bet Your Life (s) (35825)  
9.30 Schools: Living and Growing (9143196) 9.45 Talk, Write and Read (916047) 10.02 Stage Two Science (95047) 10.18 Mind Your Own Business (932554) 10.40 Living with Technology (183198) 10.55 Film and Video Showcase (8301912) 11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica (938757) 11.15 The Music Show (2919202) 11.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tai (3274080) 11.45 First Edition (3202863)  
12.00 House To House. Political magazine (55688)  
12.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning entertainment (24950) 1.30 Take 5 featuring Mister Men. Tales from the Riverbank. Nantale, Ivor the Engine and Jolly Bear (s) (74486)  
2.00 Starlight Serenades. Cartoon (58630028)  
2.15 FILM: Mercy or Murder? (1987) starring Robert Young and Francis Field. A made-for-television drama about an elderly retired doctor who decides to mercy kill his terminally-ill wife. Directed by Steven Gethers. (Teletext) (666679)  
4.00 Journeyman. Clive Gurnell continues his south of England odyssey and reaches Salisbury Plain. (Teletext) (s) (739)  
4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (221)  
5.00 Ricki Lake. The guests are women who delight in stealing other women's men. (Teletext) (s) (7708318)  
5.50 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (884202)  
6.00 The Crystal Maze (s). (Teletext) (s) (88134)  
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (701641) 7.50 The Slot (776398)  
8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (7283)



Allied commander General MacArthur (7.30pm)



Students of the performing arts (BBC1, 5.05pm)

**The Bit** BBC1, 5.05pm  
Despite its Russian-sounding name, the Markov Academy of Dance and Drama is located not in St Petersburg but in Richmond, Surrey. Written for children and about children, Chris Ellis's drama follows a number of youngsters who hope the school will be their passport to stardom. This is no Shirley Temple fairytale but a sharp-edged examination of a tough world where only the exceptionally talented or the amazingly lucky will survive. The tale takes time to get going but already the jealousies and disappointments are becoming apparent. Among several excellent performances, one that stands out is by Lindsey Wise as an 11-year-old with an obsessional determination to succeed as a ballet dancer.

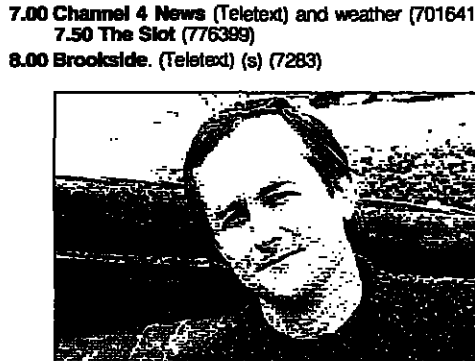
**Dispatches** Channel 4, 9.00pm  
Regular viewers of the current affairs series may recall Gwynne Roberts' investigations into Red Mercury, the substance developed by the Russians to help to make neutron bombs. Roberts returns to the subject in a report from South Africa which suggests that the right wing is secretly storing nuclear weapons, despite assurances by former President de Klerk that all the country's nuclear bombs had been decommissioned. The programme also links a series of mysterious deaths, of scientists, arms dealers and gun-runners, to the trade in Red Mercury. There is more. A former employee of South African arms company claims that British, French, the United States and Israel all helped South Africa to develop a nuclear capacity.

**Out of Order** Channel 4, 9.45pm  
Conveniently stuck in that unreliable lift this week are Kate Saunders, columnist of *The Sunday Times*, and the provocative television dramatist, G. F. Newman. Their debating point, politically enough, is vegetarianism and the treatment of animals. Newman shows where he stands by wearing plastic, not leather shoes, and sporting a badge which proclaims that "meat is murder". Saunders is soon forced back on the ropes but deftly evades the killer punch. As usual, quarter of an hour is hardly long enough but the pair just have time to debate whether Jesus was a meat eater and to accuse each other of Nazi-like attitudes before the lift is magically restored. Peter Waymark



Kevin Kennedy and Ken Morley (7.30pm)

**7.30 Coronation Street.** Reg and Cuthy have an altercation. (Teletext) (880)  
**8.00 The Match.** Liverpool v. Bob Wilson introduces coverage of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final, first leg match between Liverpool and Crystal Palace at Anfield. The commentators are Brian Moore and Ron Atkinson (1196)  
**10.00 News at Ten** (Teletext) and weather (58776)  
**10.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (431738)  
**10.40 FILM: Manhunt — Search for the Nightstalker** (1989) starring Richard Jordan. A thriller about the police hunt for the serial killer who terrorised California in the summer of 1985. Directed by Bruce Seth Green (5882573)  
**12.40am Allien Nation.** Science-fiction drama series (s) (1529559)  
**1.35 Hollywood Report.** Showbusiness gossip (s) (871217)  
**2.05 The Bear.** Music and movie magazine, introduced by Gary Crowley (s) (6771806)  
**3.00 The Album Show.** Album-based music show (s) (132423)  
**4.05 Shift.** Series in which young producers and directors get the chance to bring their work to the small screen (7145055)  
**4.55 The Time...the Place** (s) (6976158)  
**5.30 ITN Morning News** (88790). Ends at 6.00



Pete McCarthy visits New Zealand (8.30pm)

**8.30 Travelogue.** The final programme of the series finds Andy Kershaw in New Mexico's cowboy country and Pete McCarthy in New Zealand. (Teletext) (6318)  
**9.00 Dispatches.** (Teletext) (961863)  
**9.45 Out of Order.** (Teletext) (s) (243047)  
**10.00 ER.** American hospital drama series. (Teletext) (s) (1573)  
**11.00 The Best of the Tube** presented by Jools Holland and Paula Yates. Tonight's highlights include Terence Trent D'Arby's television debut and the Jam's last live television gig (s) (644370)  
**11.35 Movievision** (s) (s) (49137)  
**12.00am LA Live.** Courtroom drama series (s) (7865603)  
**1.00 Weird Nightmares.** The music of Charlie Mingus explored by Ray Davies with the help of Elvis Costello, Vernon Reid, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and archive film footage (s) (1232158)  
**2.05 FILM: Under Two Flags** (1936, b/w) starring Ronald Colman, Victor McLaglen and Claudette Colbert. Drama about an Englishman who joins the Foreign Legion to cover up a crime committed by his younger brother and finds himself as a rival in the command for the love of a woman. Directed by Frank Lloyd (983963). Ends at 3.45

- NIJOLA**
- As London except: 9.55-10.00 *Central News* (214738) 12.20-12.30 *Central News* (214738) 1.55 *A Country Practice* (9102202) 2.30-2.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 3.20-3.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 3.50-4.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 4.15-4.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 4.45-5.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 5.15-5.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 5.45-6.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 6.15-6.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 6.45-7.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 7.15-7.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 7.45-8.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 8.15-8.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 8.45-9.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 9.15-9.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 9.45-10.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 10.15-10.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 10.45-11.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 11.15-11.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 11.45-12.00 *Country Practice* (9102202)
- CENTRAL**
- As London except: 9.55-10.00 *Central News* (214738) 12.20-12.30 *Central News* (214738) 1.55 *A Country Practice* (9102202) 2.30-2.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 3.20-3.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 3.50-4.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 4.15-4.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 4.45-5.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 5.15-5.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 5.45-6.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 6.15-6.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 6.45-7.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 7.15-7.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 7.45-8.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 8.15-8.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 8.45-9.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 9.15-9.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 9.45-10.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 10.15-10.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 10.45-11.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 11.15-11.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 11.45-12.00 *Country Practice* (9102202)
- GRANADA**
- As London except: 9.55-10.00 *Granada News* (214738) 12.20-12.30 *Granada News* (214738) 1.55 *A Country Practice* (9102202) 2.30-2.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 3.20-3.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 3.50-4.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 4.15-4.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 4.45-5.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 5.15-5.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 5.45-6.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 6.15-6.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 6.45-7.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 7.15-7.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 7.45-8.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 8.15-8.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 8.45-9.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 9.15-9.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 9.45-10.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 10.15-10.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 10.45-11.00 *Country Practice* (9102202) 11.15-11.30 *Country Practice* (9102202) 11.45-12.00 *Country Practice* (9102202)

- HTV WALES**
- As HTV WEST except: 1.55-2.25 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 2.25-2.35 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 2.35-2.45 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 2.45-2.55 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 2.55-3.05 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 3.05-3.15 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 3.15-3.25 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 3.25-3.35 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 3.35-3.45 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 3.45-3.55 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 3.55-4.05 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 4.05-4.15 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 4.15-4.25 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 4.25-4.35 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 4.35-4.45 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 4.45-4.55 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 4.55-5.05 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 5.05-5.15 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 5.15-5.25 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 5.25-5.35 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 5.35-5.45 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 5.45-5.55 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 5.55-6.05 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 6.05-6.15 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 6.15-6.25 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 6.25-6.35 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 6.35-6.45 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 6.45-6.55 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 6.55-7.05 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 7.05-7.15 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 7.15-7.25 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 7.25-7.35 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 7.35-7.45 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 7.45-7.55 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 7.55-8.05 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 8.05-8.15 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 8.15-8.25 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 8.25-8.35 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 8.35-8.45 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 8.45-8.55 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 8.55-9.05 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 9.05-9.15 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 9.15-9.25 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 9.25-9.35 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 9.35-9.45 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 9.45-9.55 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 9.55-10.05 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 10.05-10.15 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 10.15-10.25 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 10.25-10.35 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 10.35-10.45 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 10.45-10.55 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 10.55-11.05 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 11.05-11.15 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 11.15-11.25 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 11.25-11.35 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 11.35-11.45 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 11.45-11.55 *Only Yesterday* (827983) 11.55-12.05 *Only Yesterday* (827983)
- MERIDIAN**
- As London except: 1.55 *A Country Practice* (9102202) 2.25 *Country Practice* (9102202) 3.20 *Country Practice* (9102202) 3.50 *Country Practice* (9102202) 4.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 4.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 5.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 5.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 6.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 6.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 7.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 7.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 8.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 8.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 9.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 9.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 10.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 10.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 11.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 11.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 12.15 *Country Practice* (9102202)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As London except: 1.55 *High Road* (827983) 2.25-2.35 *The West at Work* (827983) 2.35-2.45 *The West at Work* (827983) 2.45-2.55 *The West at Work* (827983) 2.55-3.05 *The West at Work* (827983) 3.05-3.15 *The West at Work* (827983) 3.15-3.25 *The West at Work* (827983) 3.25-3.35 *The West at Work* (827983) 3.35-3.45 *The West at Work* (827983) 3.45-3.55 *The West at Work* (827983) 3.55-4.05 *The West at Work* (827983) 4.05-4.15 *The West at Work* (827983) 4.15-4.25 *The West at Work* (827983) 4.25-4.35 *The West at Work* (827983) 4.35-4.45 *The West at Work* (827983) 4.45-4.55 *The West at Work* (827983) 4.55-5.05 *The West at Work* (827983) 5.05-5.15 *The West at Work* (827983) 5.15-5.25 *The West at Work* (827983) 5.25-5.35 *The West at Work* (827983) 5.35-5.45 *The West at Work* (827983) 5.45-5.55 *The West at Work* (827983) 5.55-6.05 *The West at Work* (827983) 6.05-6.15 *The West at Work* (827983) 6.15-6.25 *The West at Work* (827983) 6.25-6.35 *The West at Work* (827983) 6.35-6.45 *The West at Work* (827983) 6.45-6.55 *The West at Work* (827983) 6.55-7.05 *The West at Work* (827983) 7.05-7.15 *The West at Work* (827983) 7.15-7.25 *The West at Work* (827983) 7.25-7.35 *The West at Work* (827983) 7.35-7.45 *The West at Work* (827983) 7.45-7.55 *The West at Work* (827983) 7.55-8.05 *The West at Work* (827983) 8.05-8.15 *The West at Work* (827983) 8.15-8.25 *The West at Work* (827983) 8.25-8.35 *The West at Work* (827983) 8.35-8.45 *The West at Work* (827983) 8.45-8.55 *The West at Work* (827983) 8.55-9.05 *The West at Work* (827983) 9.05-9.15 *The West at Work* (827983) 9.15-9.25 *The West at Work* (827983) 9.25-9.35 *The West at Work* (827983) 9.35-9.45 *The West at Work* (827983) 9.45-9.55 *The West at Work* (827983) 9.55-10.05 *The West at Work* (827983) 10.05-10.15 *The West at Work* (827983) 10.15-10.25 *The West at Work* (827983) 10.25-10.35 *The West at Work* (827983) 10.35-10.45 *The West at Work* (827983) 10.45-10.55 *The West at Work* (827983) 10.55-11.05 *The West at Work* (827983) 11.05-11.15 *The West at Work* (827983) 11.15-11.25 *The West at Work* (827983) 11.25-11.35 *The West at Work* (827983) 11.35-11.45 *The West at Work* (827983) 11.45-11.55 *The West at Work* (827983) 11.55-12.05 *The West at Work* (827983)
- YORKSHIRE**
- As London except: 1.55 *A Country Practice* (9102202) 2.25 *Country Practice* (9102202) 3.20 *Country Practice* (9102202) 3.50 *Country Practice* (9102202) 4.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 4.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 5.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 5.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 6.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 6.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 7.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 7.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 8.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 8.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 9.15 *Country Practice* (9102202) 9.45 *Country Practice* (9102202) 10.15 *Country Practice* (9102



**FROM ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT  
IN DUBLIN**

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